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# THE TIMES

The Making Style, by Jan Morris, page 7

## Inflation in Britain running at over 30%

Sh inflation is running at more than 30 per cent annually, retail price index figures for the six months indicate. The unprecedented rise of 3.9 per cent is likely to be followed by further increases in the next couple of months as wage measures and other factors work their way through. Inflation in the United Kingdom is now worse than almost every industrialized country except Turkey.

## April price index up by 3.9%

But there is also a large element of what economists call "suppressed inflation" which has not yet shown up in prices charged to consumers. These are quite apart from the 24 per cent which the Chancellor said his Budget measures would add to prices. None of these is reflected in the April index, which is based on prices in the shops on April 15, Budget day.

Inflation in Britain has been tempered during the last six months by the slower increase in import prices (an annual rate of under 10 per cent) than in British domestic production costs despite the depreciation of the pound.

In addition prices are still partly held down by controls, unacceptably compressed profit margins and direct subsidies, to say nothing of the effective subsidy of nationalised industry losses.

As these restraints are removed—though import prices may continue to rise slowly—the suppressed inflation will begin to show in prices in the shops and so in the official retail index.

In these circumstances 30 per cent is certainly a safe estimate of the true rate of price inflation.

It compares poorly with annual rates for the six months to March in other countries: 8.3 per cent in the United States; 11.8 per cent in France; 7 per cent in West Germany; 10.5 per cent in Japan; 11.5 per cent in Sweden and 7 per cent in Switzerland.

Only Turkey of the 24 industrial countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has a rate of inflation near Britain's. Even Iceland (43 per cent in 1974) has fallen back to barely half our rate.



Ilie Nastase, of Romania, disputes a line call at the British hard courts championships and was eventually disqualified. Roger Taylor later walked off court in another dispute. Report, page 21.

## Transport House guideline notes appeal pro-EEC ministers

By David Wood  
Political Editor  
Senior pro-EEC Cabinet ministers were appalled yesterday when they had the first view of Transport House speakers' notes, called "Quit the Common Market," which in the next few days will be in the hands of all constituency Labour parties.

The rift between the Labour Cabinet and the main party on the EEC issue is now not only plain to see but also farcical, and some senior ministers are determined to go out into the country to refute the Transport House document.

More than one pro-EEC minister yesterday marked passages in the speakers' notes so as to make an early refutation of the Transport House argument.

The first page of the speakers' notes has the following statements, among others: "Common Market: Shackles will tighten as time goes by. Industry: Loss of control. Agriculture: Designed to protect the Commonwealth farmer. Cost: Considerable and increasing year by year."

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On Monday *The Times* will publish a four-page guide to the EEC referendum. All the issues concerning the Community and the case for and against Britain's remaining a member will be aired.

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## Pentagon holding out little hope for 13 missing Marines

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, May 16  
Thirteen Americans are still reported missing in action after the attack on the island of Koh Tang on Thursday in search of the crew of the seized merchant ship Mayaguez. A Pentagon spokesman said this morning: "I wouldn't want to indicate any great hope that they are alive."

One Marine is known to have been killed, by a land mine, 22 were injured, three of them seriously, as well as the 13 missing. The 13 Marines and pilots, were on a helicopter which was shot down in the water 100 yards off the beach on which they intended to land on Koh Tang.

There were 26 men aboard and 13 have been accounted for on the destroyer *Wilson*. Some of the Marines swam ashore and were pinned down on the beach by small arms fire by the Cambodians, while one Marine stayed on the roof of the helicopter, which was above water, and kept in contact with his commanding officers by radio.

The spokesman offered some hope that the missing men might still turn up on one of the many ships involved in the operation, but it would not seem probable that they could all be discovered now, 28 hours after the operation was concluded.

The exact sequence of events is not yet clear but it is evident that the crew were released before the assault on Koh Tang and before the bombing of Cambodian military installations in Sihanoukville. They were put on a Thai fishing boat, which had also been captured by the Cambodians on the high seas, and told to tell the Americans that they had been released on Wednesday that the Queen signed the order allowing the execution.

Malik, who was born in Trinidad, advocated racial violence until he declared a change of view in 1970. He fled from Britain to escape robbery and blackmail charges in 1971 after 30 years in the country.

Early in 1972 the Trinidad police issued a warrant for his arrest after two bodies were found in the grounds of his burnt-out house near Port of Spain.

The bodies were those of Mrs Gail Benson, an English divorcee, and Mr Skerrett, a Trinidad barber. The police said the woman had 10 stab wounds and had been alive when buried.

ie as bridge  
psers  
r train  
Yugoslavia, May 16.  
The collapsed under a  
train near Vrnjačka  
two coaches  
into a swollen river  
ring at least 13 people  
ring 169.  
Official statement said  
are still people injured  
bly dead in the wreck  
ple living by the river,  
tern Yugoslavia, have  
ted the watch for pas-  
who might have been  
ray by the torrent after  
or being thrown out  
strate said it appeared  
had undermined the  
tent, causing the bridge  
se under the train, an  
from Birola, near the  
onfer.  
August 150 people died  
express crashed in  
Reuters.

Armed Forces  
to get pay  
rise of 29%  
Pay increases for the Armed Forces  
averaging 29 per cent, including existing  
threshold payments, have been approved  
by the Government. The most junior  
private soldier will earn £32.76 a week,  
£13,325 a year and a brigadier  
£14,000. The cost of the rise will be more  
than £138m. Page 2

Dunlop strike ends  
The strike by 700 Dunlop clerical workers,  
which had closed five car component  
factories, ended yesterday when the  
workers accepted a new pay deal. As a  
result, British Leyland is recalling 15,500  
men laid off and hopes to resume full  
production soon. Page 15

Bill of Rights study  
A study into the possibility of introducing  
a Bill of Rights in Northern Ireland was  
launched yesterday by Lord Evers, chair-  
man of the government-financed Standing  
Advisory Commission on Human Rights.  
The work will take up to a year and will  
be conducted along similar lines to royal  
commissions. Page 2

Concern over trade  
in human blood  
The World Health Organization has drawn  
attention to the existence of "an extensive  
trade in human blood". The blood sold  
by the poor in underdeveloped countries  
is being exported to affluent nations. It is  
described as "a river of blood flowing the  
wrong way". Page 5

Ballots in balance  
The system of secret postal ballots for  
full-time officials of the Amalgamated  
Union of Engineering Workers might end  
after a national committee vote on the  
matter resulted in a tie. Mr Hugh Scanlon,  
the union's president, has a casting vote  
but it was not known last night how he  
had used it. Page 2

Gulf Oil bribery  
The chairman of the Gulf Oil Corporation  
has admitted at a Senate hearing that his  
company paid \$5m (about £2.1m) in bribes  
to foreign states. It was called a "dis-  
mal story". Page 6

Record society receipts  
Building societies' net receipts in April  
were a record £406m, £132m above March.  
The previous best month. Investors  
deposited £912m compared with the March  
figure of £688m. Lending was up by £72m  
to £468m. Page 15

On other pages  
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Charles Hargrove on France after the  
first year in office of President  
Giscard d'Estaing; Rex  
Bellamy on the rising young star  
who is determined to smash her  
way to Wimbledon; Saturday  
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physical stamina needed to start  
a restaurant; Jonathan Carter on dis-  
covering New York.  
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Hill; on entry qualification for  
the profession, from Lord Justice  
Scarman.  
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were helped by an un-  
changed MLT; The FT index  
rose by 6.1 to 341.5.  
Personal investment and finance  
Building societies: The problems  
facing the new chairman of the  
Building Societies Association are  
discussed by Margaret Simon.  
Investor's week: Inflation in  
Britain.

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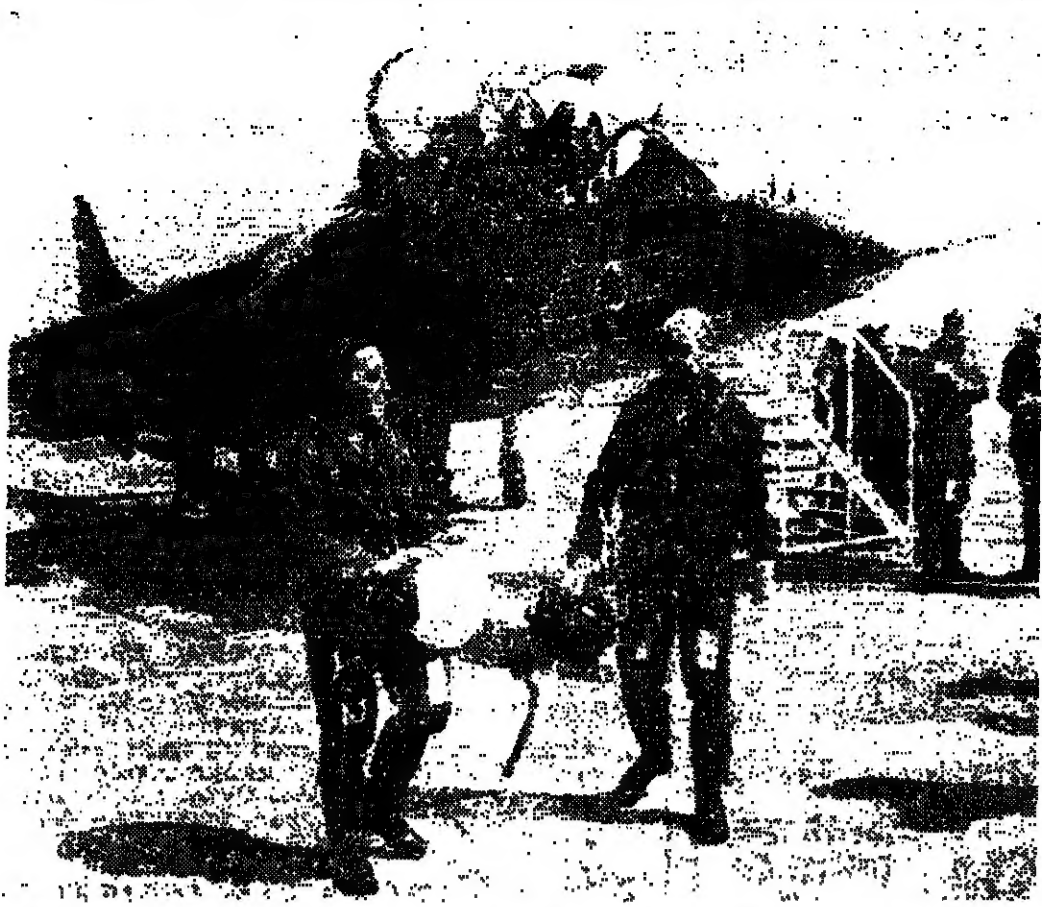








## HOME NEWS



"Thank you" flight: Mr. Mason, Secretary of State for Defence (left) and Mr. Patrick Duffy, his parliamentary private secretary, at RAF Finningley, Yorkshire, yesterday after flights in Harrier vertical take-off jets. Mr. Mason, who announced on Thursday that 25 maritime versions of the aircraft had been ordered for

the Royal Navy, was greeted by 5,000 workers with a huge sign reading "Thank you" as his aircraft hovered over the Hawker Siddeley works at Brough. He said after the flight: "We lead the world, and by going ahead with manufacture of the maritime Harrier we shall maintain that lead."

## Doctors fear prosecution under abortion Bill

By a Staff Reporter

Proposed amendments to the abortion law would expose doctors carrying out therapeutic abortions to the risk of criminal prosecution, leaders of Britain's 23,000 family doctors claimed yesterday.

The public and the medical profession should be made aware of the dangers inherent in the amending Bill to the Abortion Act, which is being examined by a Commons select committee, the general medical services committee of the British Medical Association said in a statement.

Clause 11 of the amending Bill would make a doctor guilty of an offence unless he proved that regulations had been complied with would rest with the accused. That was contrary to the basic principles of criminal law.

The doctors pointed out that under the present Act a doctor decides whether an abortion is possible partly by comparing the risks of the abortion against

the risks of letting the pregnant woman continue. Under the amending Bill there would have to be "grave" risk to the life of the woman or risk of "serious" injury to her physical or mental health or that of her existing children.

The terms "grave" and "serious" are not defined in the Bill and could be determined only in the light of the particular circumstances of the case by a jury.

Doctors would be at permanent risk of criminal prosecution and their free exercise of clinical judgment as to what is in the best interests of the health of the woman would be inhibited by the constant fear that legal interpretations of the words "grave" and "serious" might go against them, the BMA committee stated.

The proposed amendments would put the law on abortion back by a generation, it said. It would prove unduly oppressive to the rights of women as well as to the position of any doctor recommending or carrying out a therapeutic abortion.

## Study aims at development of minority group arts

By Kenneth Gosling

Arts Reporter

The first comprehensive and independent study of arts activities among minority groups in Britain is being carried out with the backing of the Arts Council, the Community Relations Commission and the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Work began last September and a report and recommendations on the state, contribution and potential development of the arts among ethnic minority groups is due to be published in the autumn.

The inquiry is also designed to assess what latent artistic talents can be encouraged by increasing resources for arts activities in minority groups.

Miss Nasreen Khan, the organising consultant, former theatre editor of Time Out and co-founder of Notting Hill's black newspaper, The Hustler, has travelled more than 2,500 miles to talk to people involved in steel bands, dance groups

and festivals, as well as to playwrights, painters, teachers, arts administrators and local councils.

There is a curious attitude that you have a Welsh society, all well and good, but if you have a West Indies drama group, that is distinctly racist," she said.

Another task was to encourage immigrant minorities to see themselves as part of the general arts structure in the country, to see that they had rights and that their contribution would be welcome.

Another aspect was the place of the black artist in drama schools. In eight schools it was found that only 10 out of 673 students were black British actors.

Details of the inquiry were given at a press conference in London yesterday, introduced by its chairman Professor A. G. Hines, of Birkbeck College. Evidence may be sent to Miss Khan, 36 Grafton Road, London, NW5 2EF.

## Man in 'Scots Army' case changes his plea

One of the seven accused in the "Scots Army" conspiracy trial at the High Court in Glasgow changed his plea to guilty on certain charges yesterday.

Tony Tunilla, aged 25, of Avonpark Street, Glasgow, will be sentenced at the end of the trial. He admitted that he formed part of a criminal conspiracy to further the aims of the Army of the Provisional Government of Scotland with the intention of robbing a bank.

Lord Keith directed the jury to find Mr Tunilla guilty of taking part in the armed robbery of a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland at Springburn Road, Glasgow, involving £8,000, and being in unlawful possession of a shotgun used in the robbery.

Mr Hugh Morton, QC, advocate, accepted Mr Tunilla's pleas of not guilty to charges relating to explosives; the destruction of power supplies, dams and labour exchanges; and conspiring to commit other acts listed in the indictment.

The six other men all deny criminal conspiracy to further the purposes of the Scottish Army of the Provisional Government.

The trial continues on Monday.

**Dockyard man suspended**

A Royal Navy official at Portsmouth said yesterday: "Mr Harry Fulthorpe, the general manager of Portsmouth dockyard, has been suspended pending the outcome of an official inquiry."

## Case ready for trial has to wait 15 months

Mr Jeremiah Harman, QC, protested in the High Court yesterday at the prospect of a case which is ready for trial having to wait 15 to 17 months before it is heard.

Two actions concerning the validity of property mortgages had been fixed to be heard last January. They were taken out of the Chancery Division's "long witness" list after it was thought that the dispute would be fully settled.

Sir Anthony Plogman, the Vice-Chancellor, was told that the case had been fixed in one action but negotiations in the other had broken down. For the trial of the second, estimated to last 15 days, the parties had been offered a date in October, 1976.

## Former brokers jailed for fraud and theft

Prison sentences were passed at Bristol Crown Court yesterday on three former stockbrokers convicted of fraud and theft belonging to clients.

Bernard Bartlett, aged 64, of Manor Terrace, Brixham, Devon, the senior partner of Bartlett and Company and a former Bristol city councillor, was jailed for two years.

## In brief

## Newbury picket by stable lads

About fifty striking stable lads from Newmarket picked Newbury races yesterday campaigning for better wages. They stopped horse boxes and persuaded most drivers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which is also the jockeys' union, not to be walked on to the course.

The lads also blocked out BBC television coverage of the racing by persuading technicians not to operate the cameras. The photograph equipment and racecourse mobile camera patrol were also not operating.

## Move to catch rapist

Mr Frederick Drayton Porter, Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, said yesterday that he was putting senior officers, including five chief superintendents and 12 superintendents, back on the beat in an attempt to catch the Cambridge rapist.

## Blind girl backed

Bradford University will spend £5,000 on a braille adaptor to telephone computer for Miss Claire Wheeler, aged 19, of Taunton, who is blind and starts next term on a degree course demanding computer operating.

## Taxing aircraft collide

A British Airways jumbo aircraft and an Aer Lingus Boeing 737, carrying more than 300 passengers between them, collided at Heathrow airport, London, yesterday while taxiing for take-off, but no one was hurt.

## Students switch sit-in

Students at Warwick University, protesting at increased rents, switched their sit-in yesterday from the administration block to the arts centre, allowing staff into offices for the first time in three weeks.

## Woman freed

Mrs Jean Boag, who was jailed two weeks ago for causing a nuisance at Dr John Woodwoody's south London surgery, was freed by Mr Justice Foster in the High Court yesterday.

## Newspaper returns

After being halted for three days by an unofficial dispute involving members of the National Graphical Association, The Daily Telegraph was published again in London yesterday.

## Over 300 drivers to get pardon

More than 300 drivers convicted of offences against traffic regulations in Nottingham are to get pardons after their fines refunded because of faulty traffic signs in the city. A further 326 have had criminal proceedings against them withdrawn. Fines totalling £1,500 will be returned when the pardons have been confirmed.

Nottinghamshire County Council said that access signs had been changed because the police felt they were unclear.

## EEC REFERENDUM

## Europe as big export market has not worked, Mr Benn says

By Penny Symon

Mr Heath's promise that the EEC would make Britain prosperous and bring positive, substantial and immediate gains has been proved false, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, said in Coventry last night.

"They told us in 1971 that the Common Market was our most promising export market. Now, three years later, he said Britain's trade deficit with the nine stood at more than £2,000 million. "Our industrial investment falling, and unemployment stands at 900,000. We were told that inside the Common Market prospects would open up for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all the development areas."

"Now, three years later, many factories and plants in those areas have closed down because they are thought too distant from Europe's industrial heartlands, the golden triangle from which they are excluded."

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, told a meeting in Accrington that membership had worked, and would work, to the advantage of the UK textile industry.

"Our membership has resulted in even greater import penetration which is dealing daily blows to thousands of Lancashire families, and our membership makes it more difficult to take effective counteraction."

Mr Douglas Jay, MP, vice-chairman of the National Referendum Campaign, said in Leeds that there was no prospect of Britain's disastrous trade deficit being cured if the country remained in the EEC, because the pound had become revalued to make the measures.

Mr Ian Mifsard, Labour MP

for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, said that in 1972 Mr Heath told Britain that if the country went into the EEC the economy would be stimulated so much that Britain would get rid of the queues of unemployed workers; but exactly the opposite had happened, and the EEC was putting Britain on the dole.

Mr William Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party, said in Cumbria that when Britain joined the Community there was a fear that as a result food prices could rise steeply, but in practice that had not happened.

"There has been a growing food shortage in the world and food prices have been rising steeply. In consequence our prices have risen fast too, but this has not been due to Britain's membership of the Community," Mrs Shirley Williams has convincingly shown.

Dr Dickson Mabon, MP, chairman of the Labour Campaign for Britain in Europe, said in Wokingham that membership of the European Coal and Steel Community was a great opportunity to strengthen Britain's steel industry, expand exports and fight unemployment, and that is why management and unions in the steel industry were urging workers to vote "yes" in the referendum.

Mr David Knox, Conservative MP for Leek, said in York that since Britain joined the EEC, the country received more than £200m in loans and almost £100m in grants from European funds and the investment bank. That money was being used to create new jobs, to retrain people who had become redundant and to help those in need.

## Withdrawal would lead to sharp rise in unemployment, Mr Rippon says

By Roger Barthoud

Using a poll of 523 British firms published in The Economist to support him, Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Conservative MP for Hexham), yesterday said that withdrawal from the EEC would lead to a sharp increase in unemployment.

Mr Rippon, the chief negotiator for Mr Heath's government of the terms of Britain's entry, said in a speech in London yesterday that the British firms could not compete adequately in the EEC as it was a free market of more than 250 million people when tariffs were fully dismantled. That would obviously improve job prospects.

He said that Mr Benn's argument in The Times yesterday that the British firms could not compete adequately in the EEC was defeatist; to compete would be even more difficult if they were deprived of part of the market by higher tariffs.

Mr Rippon said that advocates of a "siege" economy greatly underestimated the amount of obligatory retaliation from non-member states.

The United States Trade Act of 1974, for example, required the Administration to retaliate if United States firms complained with justification of unfair competition by exporters to the United States.

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## Ministry answers challenge on food prices by MP

By Hugh Clayton

Changes in EEC finances that would push up British food prices cannot be forced on the country, the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday. It was replying to a challenge issued on Thursday by Mr Norman Buchanan, its former Minister of State.

He called on the Government to deny reports that other EEC governments wanted to force Britain to accept a change in the monetary compensatory amounts which protect British consumers against the full impact of food forces of the falling value of the pound.

The ministry said: "If Britain were not in the EEC import prices would rise automatically when the pound floated downwards. The ministry has the job of balancing the interests of producers and consumers. If the 'green pound' were devalued this would be as a result of the Government's decision on where the overall national interest lay."

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## Union chief thinks Britain was duped

By Our Labour Staff

Britain had been tricked and duped into joining the EEC by promises of Eldorado, Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, told the north-western area conference of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday.

He went on: "The Labour Government made a valiant effort to try to make the best of a bad job, but they would be the first to admit that they have not been able to renegotiate the Rome Treaty. All they have been able to do is tinker around with one or two things."

Mr Jones said that the spectre of unemployment was haunting the EEC countries; although Britain had the lowest rate of the nine, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden had rates of only 1 per cent and Australia a rate of only 2 per cent.

"It is clear that the Common Market is not the solution to the economic problems of working people, but big business wants us to remain members," he said. In 1973 there had been a loss in investment in jobs to the country of £400m. He said that £500m of British money had been invested on the Continent and £100m from Europe invested in Britain.

"British capital is drained away at the expense of jobs in Britain because that is the big business approach," Mr Jones said.

## Liberal warning

A warning that Britain's exit from Europe would have "disastrous" consequences on the island of North is the main argument of a manifesto launched by Liberals in the region yesterday.

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## PARLIAMENT, May 16, 1975.

## Avoiding patronising concept of the statutory woman

House of Commons

MRS MAUREEN COLOUGH (Northampton, North, Lab) moving the second reading of the Balance of Sexes Bill, said it sought to ensure that appointments to the boards of public bodies and corporations, to certain committees, tribunals and to juries, and the House of Lords should consist of men and women in equal numbers.

There were 124 public bodies according to her own count. There was an Office of the Inspector of Prisons to do with the law. Of course, the umpire was a man.

The Sugar Board had five male members and no women. The Agriculture Board had 27 men and no women. Was the only role for women in agriculture that of farmer's wife?

The Coventry Garden Authority had six men members, and no women. The National Bus Company had seven men and no women. Of course, women did not travel on buses, nor apparently on trains, because the British Railways Board had 12 male members and no women.

But all was not bleak. Under Mrs Shirley Williams, the National Consumer Council had 15 women members. The most important for the Guinness Book of Records. The Women's Liberation Movement was the best thing to have happened since the Suffragettes. Libérationists had been given a bad press. Men had been frightened they had sought to dominate them with sexist jokes about burning bras.

MR JOHN GARRETT (Norwich, South, Lab) said he believed in positive discrimination in favour of those who had never held an appropriate place in the nation's power. Discrimination against, or the refusal of equal opportunity to, women was a deep-seated feature of society.

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DR SHIRLEY SUMMERS

Under Secretary, Home Office, said she was not about to play would not about the essential changes attitudes which MPs wished. It could create a climate of opinion in which it would be harder to thrive and flourish.

Women should have a right opportunity to play a full equal part in public life. Remedies should not be a legal nuisance. The Bill was inconsistent with the spirit in the Government's Sex Discrim







## OVERSEAS

## Gulf Oil chairman tells 'dismal story' of bribes to foreign states

From Frank Vogl  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, May 16

In a tense Senate hearing today, Mr. B. R. Dorsey, chairman of the Gulf Oil Corporation, admitted under oath that his company had made illegal political payments amounting to \$4m (£1.7m) to the ruling party of South Korea. Other payments totalling \$350,000 had been made during the 1960s to the late General René Barrientos, when he was President of Bolivia, and to members of his party.

In a soft and at times shaking voice, Mr. Dorsey told the Senate subcommittee on multinational companies that "during the period 1960 to July, 1973, approximately \$10.3m of corporate funds had been used for various political contributions or related political purposes, of which approximately \$5m was used abroad."

Watergate investigations and subsequent inquiries by the Securities and Exchange Commission had disclosed that Gulf made illegal political contributions, but until today the full details were not known. The Senate committee was prepared to extract all the facts from Mr. Dorsey.

In the event, he made many of his most astonishing disclosures in a lengthy opening statement. It drew the response from Senator Frank Church, the committee's chairman, that "this has been a dismal story that you have told. We know it and you know it."

Mr. Dorsey said that \$4m in political payments went to the Democratic Republican Party of the Republic of Korea because of demands for high party officials. The demands were accompanied "by pressure which left little to the imagination as to what would occur if the company would choose to turn its back on the request."

In 1965 the company made a contribution of \$1m. In 1970, Mr. Dorsey said, Mr. S. K. Kim, the finance chairman of the Korean Democratic Republican Party, demanded \$10m to help in an election. Mr. Dorsey said he had refused, but he said that sometimes it had been necessary to give money to get things done.

Under cross-examination, Mr. Dorsey said he could not recall exactly what Mr. Kim had said, but he supposed that the threats were made in the name of President Park. He admitted that he had not at any time sought aid from the United States Embassy in South Korea or from the Department of State, "because in my experience the United States Government has never proved very helpful in these things, and because, I suppose, I was ashamed of what was going on."

In Bolivia, he said, the company spent \$110,000 on buying a helicopter for General Barrientos in 1965, and later made payments totalling \$240,000 to members of the President's political party.

Mr. Dorsey explained that investigations were now going on to determine exactly how all foreign and domestic political contributions went. He said that one of \$50,000 was made via the First National City Bank in Beirut, "for the purpose of helping to defray the expenses of a public education programme endeavouring to bring



Mr Dorsey: "I was ashamed of what was going on."

about a better understanding in America of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

When pressed for a more precise explanation, Mr. Dorsey said his memory was hazy, but he believed this money went to help Arab propaganda, and he could not remember why the Arabs could not afford the money for such publicity themselves.

He also admitted that, with the aim of concealing the contributions, Gulf had used its branch in the Bahamas for most of the book-keeping and the transfers of the bribes and payments. He said that some \$5,170,000 of funds went from the Bahamas company to the United States for political purposes, such as "contributions, gifts, entertainment and other expenses."

Mr. Dorsey noted that the publicity about the investigations had already led to his company's assets being expropriated in Peru, and to special investigations in Ecuador and Venezuela.

Earlier he stated that Gulf's managers in all of the 70 countries in which the company operated had reported that "our very status could be threatened now." He admitted that on reflection he regretted that Gulf had made the payments that it had, but he said that sometimes it was almost impossible to refuse to make such payments because of the pressures involved.

However, Mr. Dorsey's view was not accepted by the committee members, who emphasized that actions like those taken by Gulf undermined governments, complicated relations between the United States and foreign governments, and greatly weakened public confidence.

The most outraged member of the committee was Senator Percy, a former president of large American companies, who maintained that he always had found the State Department helpful in delicate company matters with foreign governments. He and other members of the committee suggested that corrupt practices had smothered the governments of Cambodia and South Vietnam. Senator Percy declared: "Corruption is the dry rot of the capitalist system or any other system for that matter. It is blowing up the twenty-seventh anniversary of Israel's establishment."

Mr. Dorsey said in his speech that this was "a visit between old friends." He pointed out that he was the seventh American president to meet the Shah, which he said was a "testament to the continuity of good American-Iranian relations."

The Shah replied: "We are proud of being a good and trusted friend of the United States of America," and added that this would continue because "it is a friendship based on permanent, durable reasons."—AP.

## Mr Ford is praised for his courage by the Shah

Washington, May 16.—The Shah of Iran congratulated President Ford tonight at a White House dinner for making the right decision for his country and for all the people who want to live in freedom.

He did not mention specifically the armed rescue of the American container ship Mayaguez, but it was clearly implied in the Shah's dinner toast comments. The dinner guests burst into long applause.

When the clapping died down, the Shah added: "This is precisely what this world needs—courage, dignity and love of other human beings."

He spoke before more than

120 guests at a white-tie dinner—the most formal social occasion for a visiting head of state since Mr. Ford came to the White House.

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## Rebel Mizos raise fears in Delhi

From Our Correspondent  
Delhi, May 16

There is concern in Delhi over the situation in Mizoram, a border territory in north-east India. The Government fears the repercussions there of the events in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

"Hostile" Mizos have been up in arms for more than a decade, and their activity has increased recently. The authorities have received reports that the Mizo National Front has joined hands with the underground movement of the Nagas.

There are also reports that some of the hostile elements whose numbers are still limited, are trying to get in touch with China through Burma. Delhi has sought the assistance of Burma to intercept them, but they are likely to evade the authorities. The Shan and Kachin guerrillas on the Sino-Burmese border are said to be only too willing to help the hostile Mizos.

What is of immediate concern to Delhi is the large-scale infiltration of hostile Mizos into the territory's administration, including the police and intelligence. Virtually every government move or counter-move is reported to the Mizo National Front.

Information from various

sources seems to indicate that the murder of an inspector-general and two other senior police officers in January was the result of a conspiracy between some people in the administration and the MNF. A month ago, a Mizo constable was killed. Certain men in the administration are said to have told the dissident forces that the man was working for Indian intelligence.

The hostile elements are said to have established a cell in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram. Searches in the town have been of no avail as the population keeps silent, either out of fear or sympathy for the MNF.

The regrouping of villages, with the help of the Army, brought some results in the past but the hostile elements have established an indirect contact with the outside world. Also, people living in these villages are not finding it safe when they go out on business or on a shopping expedition.

Senior officials from Delhi have visited Mizoram in the past few weeks to "take stock of the situation." A senior police officer has been appointed chief secretary of the local administration.

The Defence Ministry reported to the Cabinet some time ago that the MNF had stepped up its activities to in-

## Mr Sadat in talks with King of Jordan

Amman, May 16.—President Sadat of Egypt and King Hussein held talks today on strengthening Arab solidarity.

The Egyptian leader arrived in the Jordanian capital from Baghdad on the third leg of a tour which has also taken him to Kuwait.

He was given a warm welcome by the King at the airport and after driving through the crowded city centre they held private talks over lunch at the palace where the President is staying outside Amman. King Hussein returned here earlier this week from talks with French, American and British leaders. He was certain to brief Mr Sadat on the outcome of these discussions, especially those with President Ford on Washington's reappraisal of its Middle East policy.

In contrast to the festering disputes between Syria and Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq, and Egypt and Libya, Jordan at present enjoys good relations with all its Arab neighbours.

Addressing King Hussein at a banquet in Amman, President Sadat said the Arabs were now on the path to victory.

"There is no place for despair. We are struggling for hope and our enemy is struggling from a position of despair. The era of pain and disunity has passed away. We exported all this to our enemy. Egypt had proved its peaceful intentions by announcing it was reopening the Suez Canal and extending the mandate of the United Nations forces in Sinai. But our enemy is still arrogant."

Replying, King Hussein said Jordan's main determination was to achieve a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands, and particularly Jerusalem.

"I found that the world listens to us when we address it with the voice of reason, and we approach it with a unified front."—Reuters, UPI.

Cairo, May 16.—Egypt and Libya appeared today to be moving towards patching up their differences. An announcement here said that the leaders of the two countries plan to meet shortly.

The proposed meeting will bring together the leaders of Egypt, Libya and Syria—the three members of the Federation of Arab Republics. Observers here believe that the convening of the Presidential Council of the virtually inoperative federation is a device to bring together the Egyptian and Libyan leaders, with the Syrian President acting as a mediator.—Reuters.

## Guerrillas claim responsibility for Israel blast

Tel Aviv, May 16.—An explosion at a classified military plant north of Tel Aviv today sent orange flames and a grey mushroom cloud rising into the sky, the military police said.

The explosion, which killed three and wounded 12, was believed to have been an accident, not the result of Arab guerrilla action. Hundreds of windows in homes and shops in the suburb of Ramat Hasharon were shattered by the blast, and 23 people were taken to hospital with superficial cuts.—UPI.

Damascus, May 16.—Palestinian guerrillas claimed tonight that they had killed or wounded hundreds of military experts and soldiers by blowing up the plant to coincide with the twenty-seventh anniversary of Israel's establishment.—Reuters.

## Beirut leader to help transition

Beirut, May 16.—President Franjeh of Lebanon, today accepted the resignation of Mr Rashid al-Solh, the Prime Minister, but took no action to form a new government.

Mr Franjeh asked Mr al-Solh, who resigned yesterday, to stay on in a caretaker capacity until he appointed a Prime Minister-designate.—UPI.

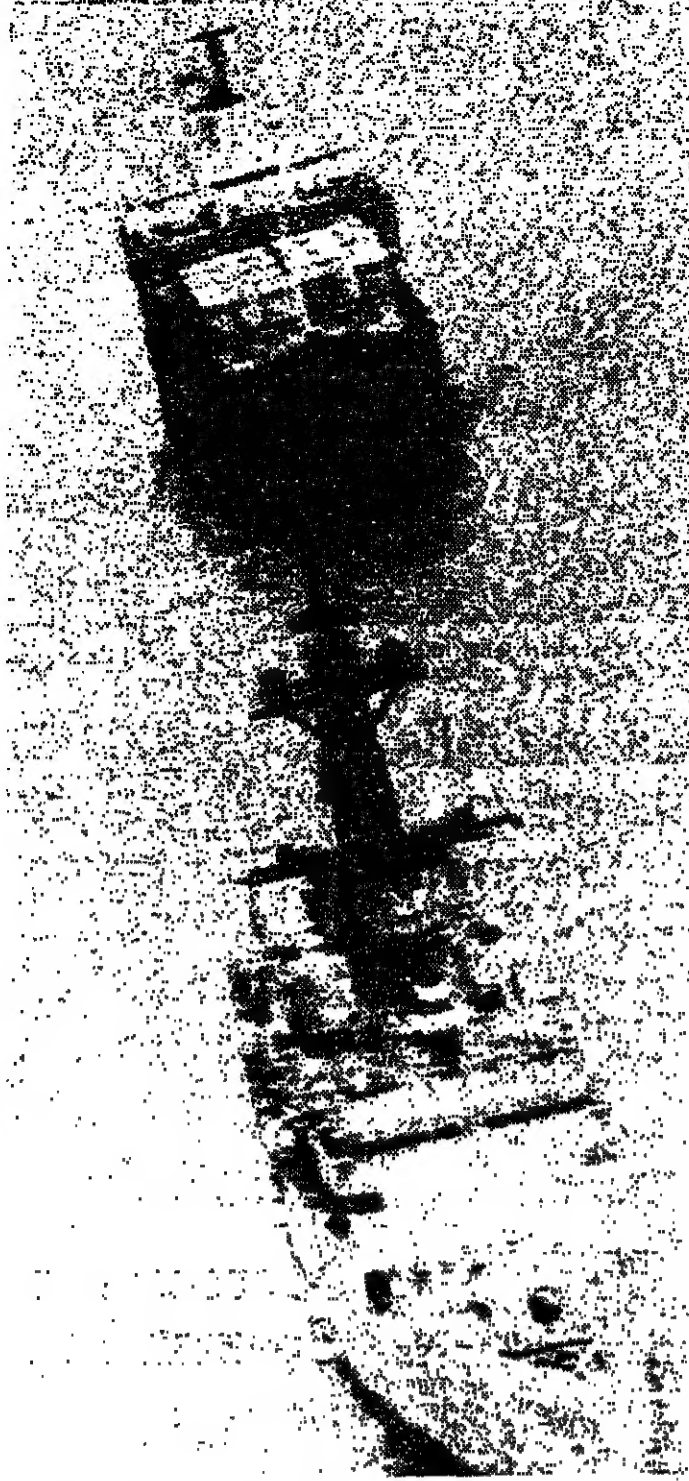
timidate and harass people: that it had attempted to burn villages and impose restrictions on the movement of supplies and staff from villages to towns and group centres; that it collected taxes forcibly from villages and demanded food supplies; and that the MNF leaders had issued orders to kidnap and kill all those suspected to be helping the Indian forces.

The MNF favours a settlement with the Government of India but only on condition of being granted sovereignty. The rebellion in Mizoram goes back to 1962 when Mr Lalunga and Mr Lalumawle, the chairman and vice-chairman of the MNF, went to Pakistan seeking money, arms and ammunition.

The word Mizo means "hill-lander," "Mi" meaning person and "zo" hills. The Mizos include a variety of tribes—the Lushais, Pawis, Paithe, Rahtes, Phangals, Hmars, Kulis, Maras and Rishangs. Their home is in the Mizo hills and some regions of Manipur, Tripura, Burma and East Bengal. Other tribes in the region are the Chakmas and Tipras.

Among the Lushais 85 per cent are literate. British missionaries have introduced Christianity and given the Mizo language a Roman alphabet.

He said there were 35 foreign-owned life offices operating in



The Mayaguez is towed away from Koh Tang Island by the US Navy destroyer Harold E. Holt.

## Raid by Marines avoided 'humiliating negotiations'

Continued from page 1

He said it was clear that any relation between America and any other country must be based on mutual interest—and America had the right to look for sympathy from its ally on matters of vital interest to itself. Circumstances changed, they were perfectly ready to reconsider their relationship with Thailand.

"We have made it clear that we are ready to negotiate with the Thai Government its new conception of its needs," he said. "They have to understand, however, that we too have our necessities."

Dr Kissinger said that there had been no consultations with Thailand before U-Tapao was used as a base for the attack on Koh Tang. The chief intention of the American Government in ordering the attack on Koh Tang and the recapture of the Mayaguez was that the United States had to draw the line against illegal action and to avoid a situation where the United States would be forced into humiliating negotiations over the fate of its merchant seamen.

The first decision was to try to prevent the crew being taken to the mainland. He said that when it seemed that this was being done, on Wednesday morning, local time, the order was given to the Air Force to stop it.

The pilot of one American aircraft, about to attack a Cambodian gunboat, noticed a group of what appeared to him to be Americans huddled together, and consulted his superior, Mr. McEvoy, chairman of the owning company Sealand Services, said yesterday that 77 of its 274 containers held goods for the American military in Thailand but none of them was arms or ammunition. The ship was not involved in any kind of espionage.—Reuters.

Farmer's ear cut off

Salisbury, May 16.—Terrorists cut off the ear of an African farmer on Wednesday as the Rhodesian Government said in its latest statement on anti-insurgent operations in the north-east of the country.

Bermuda holiday

Mrs Barbara Stonehouse, wife of the runaway Labour MP, flew from Heathrow airport to Bermuda yesterday.

Women near summit

Katmandu, May 16.—A Japanese women's expedition trying to scale Mount Everest set a high altitude record for women when pitching camp at 27,988ft. They are now only about 1,400ft from the summit.

New foreign minister

Khartoum, May 16.—Mr Gamal Mubarak, 53, former Sudan Ambassador to Britain, has been appointed Foreign Minister to succeed Dr Mansour Khalid, who was named to the Ministry of Education in January.

Mr Kosygin in Tunis

Tunis, May 16.—Mr Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, talked with President Bourguiba of Tunisia today. Further talks are planned for tomorrow morning.

Gang stoned to death

Nairobi, May 16.—Workers at a building site in Nairobi stoned to death four members of a gang that attempted to snatch a \$26,000 payroll, police said today.

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Fuel curbs relaxed

Johannesburg, May 16.—Speed limits on South African roads have been raised from 50 to 55 mph and petrol stations allowed to open on Saturday mornings, in moves relaxing fuel curbs imposed 18 months ago.

## Thailand to review treaties with US

From Bruce Palling  
Bangkok, May 16

Mr Kukrit Pramoj, the Thai Prime Minister, said today that his Government would hand the United States a memorandum objecting to the recent use of its bases in Thailand for action to obtain the return of the seized merchant ship Mayaguez from the Cambodian authorities.

Mr Kukrit also said that all treaties made between Thailand and the United States would be reviewed to bring them into line with the changing conditions in south-east Asia.

His statement came after a special three-hour Cabinet meeting. He told a press conference that he would not be asking for an apology from the United States.

Mr Anant Panyarachun, the Thai Ambassador to the United States, is being recalled for consultations. There is no indication how long he will remain in Bangkok.

Contrary to reports from the Thai military supreme command, Foreign Ministry sources say that Mr Edward Masters, the United States Chargé d'Affaires, had admitted that American aircraft from the air base at Korat, north-east of Bangkok, had taken part in the sinking of the Cambodian gunboat involved in the seizure of the Mayaguez.

Earlier, the Bangkok press had speculated that the Foreign Ministry had prepared contingency plans for an immediate American withdrawal from the remaining four bases, and for a refusal to accept the credentials of Mr Charles Whitehouse, the newly arrived American Ambassador designate.

The relatively mild response of the Thai Government to the seizure of its wishes by the United States was expected by observers in Bangkok, given the strength of the Thai armed

forces and their desire to maintain close connections with the United States.

Mr Kukrit rejected the notion of hastening the withdrawal of the 25,000 or so American troops before next March, the date already announced. "Spreading up the withdrawal may inconvenience us in many ways because we have to take charge of all the camp sites and so on," he said. "We also need time."

At the time of his press conference, a delegation of three members of the new South Vietnamese Government arrived in Bangkok. Mr Kukrit said that the delegation would discuss relations between the two countries as well as the return of the remaining 50 or so South Vietnamese aircraft flown to Thailand by pilots fleeing after the collapse of the former Government in Saigon.

Earlier this week, North Vietnamese sources in Vientiane had told The Times that the delegation would be considering only the question of the return of the American-supplied aircraft. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that Thailand was willing to return the aircraft—mostly old cargo aircraft and propeller-driven fighters—to the new South Vietnamese Government.

Mr Kukrit said at today's press conference that a North Vietnamese delegation would be arriving in Thailand on Monday. He did not elaborate. Observers believe that no important changes are likely to result from the Government's decision to conclude economic and military treaties between the two countries. Instead, the move is considered to be a gesture towards the new South Vietnamese, and Cambodian governments, who are wary of the presence of American forces close to their countries.

## New rulers start to bring peasants into Phnom Penh

Bangkok, May 16.—Cambodia's Khmer Rouge rulers are repairing Phnom Penh's Pochentong airport and other facilities in the capital "so that the city can become active again," Radio Phnom Penh said today.

The radio broadcast monitored in Bangkok, the radio indicated that the new rulers had already moved peasants from the countryside into the city, which was forcibly evacuated by its two million inhabitants soon after the Khmer Rouge took over a month ago.

Because the new inhabitants were not used to living in towns, Khmer Rouge troops and revolutionary forces were instructing them in basic hygiene, the radio said.

There were unspecified infectious diseases in the capital, and the troops and revolutionary groups were taking care of sanitary arrangements, it added. The radio did not indicate how many people now lived in the capital or whether any of the former inhabitants would be allowed back.—Reuters.

## In brief

Queen preferred to a president

Port Moresby, May 16.—In a surprise move, the Papua New Guinea Government has decided to ask the Queen to be head of state rather than have a president.

Mr Michael Somare, Chief Minister, said today that his Cabinet believed a majority of the people wanted the Queen as head of state. Ties with the monarch would give the country a sense of security while it adjusted to nationhood.

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## Laotian air force leader quits post

Vientiane, May 16.—The mander of the Royal Lao Air Force was pushed out post today in an anti-revolt by about 1,000 at Vientiane's main air base.

The airman started striding before dawn, for the removal of Brigadier General Bouathong Vongsa, their commander.

They handed out leaflets ordering the evacuation of Pathet Lao areas in the 1973 ceasefire. hours later Brigadier Vongsa handed in his resignation, yielding one of the remaining positions of in held by the once-powerful plan rightists.

Diplomatic observers noted further resignations of right-wing officials and communists. Pathet tightened their grip on Laos. The main right-wing was broken last weekend resignation of four men the coalition Government have not been replaced.

The Pathet Lao is however, that it is in abeyance by the 1973 peace treaty in which power Cabinet is delicately between five right-wing Pathet Lao areas in the north. But diplomats believe that any right-wing replacements will non-controversial persons who would offer no respite to Pathet Lao policy.

A senior Pathet Lao Mr Khum Seong Koo said today that the 1973 peace treaty would be respected. He said the 1973 peace treaty was for an economy by the state and by private enterprise.

Several small demonstrations against rightists were various parts of Vientiane. One was Mahosoth Hospital where the removal of the head of the pediatric ward was being protested as an abuse of his authority as hospital property for purposes.

In Savannakhet, one Americans detained by last Wednesday spoke United States officials. He said new team sent from Vientiane making no progress with demonstrators who were on removal of local officials and the end of the United States aid to the three men to town.—Reuters.

## Law Report May 16 1975

Court of Appeal.

## Convictions upheld after two trials

Regina v John

Before Lord Justice Scarman, Mr Justice Canby and Mr Justice Kerr.

A man accused of attacking a woman and her son who was said by the woman to be a witness to the attack, was convicted of two counts of assault on a woman and her son.

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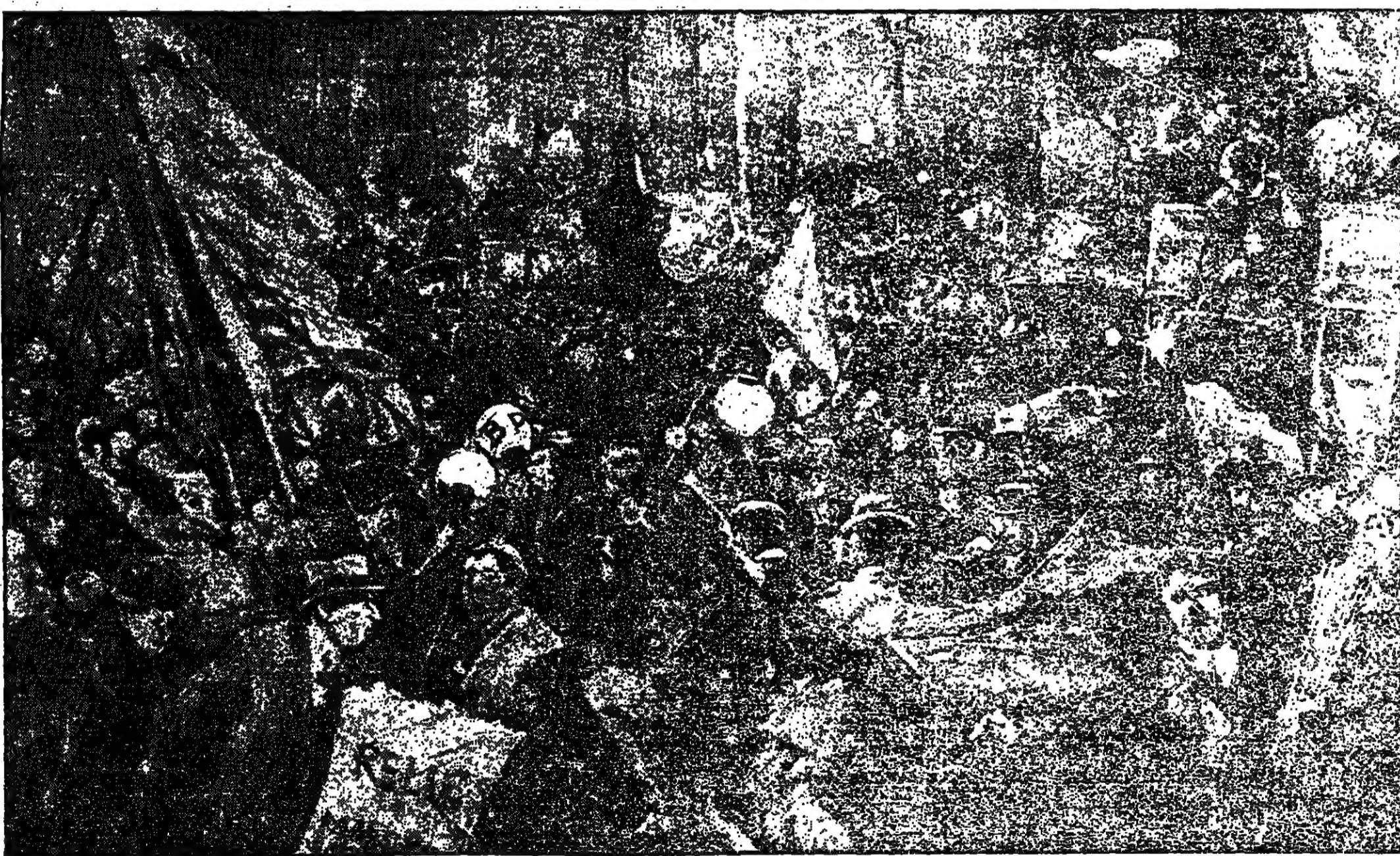


# The Mafeking style

by  
Jan Morris



The scene in  
Mafeking as the  
relief column  
arrives



The scene in  
London as  
the news arrives

any-five years ago today, dictionary tells us, the e of Mafeking went into English language, "treated lary as a gerund or ent participle". Mafick indulging in extravagant onstrations of exultation, ccasions of national rejoie. In fact I have never in life seen the word used in ing but a lexicographic ext, and this ironic double, this going into a lan- e per se, seems to me a er footnote to the story of ege of Mafeking, one of most popular of the Vic- m epics, which meant at much less and far more its contemporaries sup- d, and which one can now so far away in time, space aspiration, as a less jolly trial synonym.

the Victorians, at the end their era, it was pure aph. The humiliating ffs of the Boer War had aled to the world, after ly a century of British emacy, that the Empire not impregnable. "We are interested in the possibi- of defeat", Queen Victoria declared, not surprisingly, aps, since the enemy's l population was about a of Birmingham's, but still repeated failure of British s had profoundly shocked, depressed the nation. eking was an exhilarating pion, start to finish, inously defended by the gibly (it, to my own taste, fferable) Colonel Baden- all, it had resisted with hu- ous aplomb seven months avestment, and the flow of y messages from its garri- had done much to sustain national spirit, and bolster people's pride. Mafeking pluck. Mafeking was sche. Mafeking was British, 75 years ago today, it pro- Mafeking had won.

London has never known scenes of fevered enthu- n as those that greeted the s of Mafeking's relief on 17, 1900. It was a kind of oess. Every class of Lon- it poured rumbustious into streets, and the capital ed into three days and ts of carnival. Few people vently found it strange at time. They thought it, as dictionary suggests, no than an extravagant onstration of exultation— gratitude, perhaps. The tin of 1900 had been nuri on heroes and hero-wor- on patriotic derring-do, Jingo and Imperialism: these corporate tastes emotions were satisfied by saga of Mafeking, and to Londoners of the day hysteric festival appeared, some respects unseemly, ast only natural.

Today, in wistful retrospect, ems a very different celeb- m, and Baden-Powell's sking, which our forebears as a proud citadel of the t, is for us hardly more a village of lost illusion. is really a village even but a village of peculiar acter. As you drive there Kimberley, and descend from the high veldt dis- its modest presence clus- in greenery around its river, it looks at first like another South African : pleasant enough, agree- laid out, but stamped by a liar sameness of church market square, railway an and commercial bust, ical office in the centre own, African township on outskirts. When you enter purities of Mafeking, gh, you realize that this is bing different. It is a tier town, a white town on fringe of black Africa, gh whose streets many ter characters strut or l, from arty white progres- with novelty shops to icky black politicians with edes.

British times Mafeking the administrative head- ers of the Bechuanaland ecorate, whose border was a few miles away, and se bleak and blasted terri- offered no suitable tion for a festive pro- ul. Today the Resident's and bungalows form the tal of the Tswana banti- one of the African melands" established by South African Republic. It is a highly ebullient com- ty, encouraged doubtless he presence so close of the independent Botswana, since the final borders of butswana have yet to be ded it may well be that he whole of Mafeking as the local saying is, "go k".

is makes for a certain er in the air. White Mafek- is orthodox South Africa ed, with his standard port- l town hall and its obli- church by Sir Herbert r, with the tables of a Hotel laid for a statu- South African lunch, and Regulation South African girls inspecting their uails the Central News Agency. Rhodes stands in effigy ide the railway station, ng sacramentally towards o, and behind him the s from Johannesburg ar away have about at their forms, sprawled over by in- lant, Africans, or are red here, and there ough the twilight by swear- white railwaymen in ts.

ut over the tracks the black n is very different: all n and shanty, half veldt, municipality, with wobbly nes of dust marking the age of bicycles, and drea wide-eyed at rickety den gates. A sense of sup- posed excitement sets the e of the place, and often

groups of significant-looking men sweep by in limousines, or are to be seen converging portentously upon church halls. There is no shape to it. It has no beauty. But it sprays with verve.

This then is Mafeking, this sharp little conglomeration of black, white and railway track, and it was not so very different when Baden-Powell and his 1,200 comically assorted defenders held it against the Boers. It was a frontier town then, of excitement but of little importance. The same railway ran through to Bulawayo: the Africans lived in the same fold stretched apparently ill- ntable in all directions; the widow-birds sat, then as now, twitching their long tails lugubriously upon the telegraph wires. But for the British the real meaning of it was its tense and lonely insignifi- cence: a speck on the African map, no more, all alone on the Empire's edge.

The siege is only moderately celebrated in Mafeking. One or two of Baden-Powell's defence posts are historical monuments now, and a few characters of the siege are remembered—Lady Sarah Wilson in her lux-

uriously beflagged dug-out, Benjamin Weil, the canny entrepreneur, Lord Edward Cecil, the witliest of all aristocrats, and of course "B-P" himself, the life and soul of it all, devising yet more original ruses, sending schoolmasterly reproofs to the Boer command, playing the fool in Sunday charades, whistling, sketching, telegraphing home a stream of cocky, if not always scrupulously accurate dispatches, and finally, when the great day of deliverance came, riding in glory down Main Street side by side with his reliever, Mer- bert Plummer.

There is a small museum of the siege in the Town Hall, with a gun or two, and albums of old photographs, and flags, and letters, and lots of that homely bric-a-brac which the Boer War, more than any other conflict, seems to have inspired in its combatants and spectators—patriotic postcards with velvet ribbons, souvenir flags with gilded knobs, Christmas puds and chocolate boxes sent to her soldiers by the compassionate Queen. They have torn down Dixon's Hotel in Market Square, the main social centre of the siege but Baden-Powell's headquarters

next door is a solicitor's office, and when I called upon its present occupant, Mr Minchin, he said quite casually, as though discussing a colleague: "That's where Baden-Powell always sat, over there in the corner, on a packing case". There are a few people about who actually remember the siege, but their recollections have grown less reliable with the years. Even in Mafeking, where things do not change too fast, and which Baden-Powell and his comrades would easily recognize today—even in Mafeking, 75 years is a long time. The Empire is gone, the world has changed, the Africans seem to prefer German cars. Only one or two devoted local specialists can confidently point out the old lines of defence, and the Chamber of Commerce guide map does not mention the siege at all. Mafeking's epic days were short, and long ago, and anyway, they Maficked far less boisterously in Market Square than they did in Piccadilly far away.

Even by the standards of the time, it was a small affair. The town was small, the forces were small. The Boers did not try to take the town very seri-

ously, the British did not try to break out at all. Though foodstuffs did run short, on the Africans actually starved, and compared with the sweat- ing regiments of Roberts's campaigning armies, or the exultant hunted guerrillas of the Boer commandos, Baden-Powell's garrison had an easy time of it.

As propaganda, though, the defence of Mafeking had true value. The Boer War was an exhibition war. At the end of the British century, it was the first conflict in which the armies of the immense British Empire, triumphant against many howling primitives, were launched against Britain, her soldiers and her leaders, as the Vietnam of the day. The saurists of Europe revelled in it; the viriatic cartoonists excelled themselves; even the young Picasso, dood- ling on his pad one day, found himself caricaturing a gallimurfy of fat Highlanders, tinco-nosed colonels, and pre- posterous horseback Bullers.

which Baden-Powell was all too conscious, shone brilliantly upon the little town. So small, so remote, so suddenly famous, so dominated by the hostile waste lands all around, its sensations of importance must have been overwhelming. Yet it really did not matter much, from a military point of view, whether Mafeking stood or fell. Spion Kop, Colenso, Magersfontein, Paardeberg—those grim battles were reality. Mafeking was only a brilliant illusion—the last illusion, perhaps, in a century of grand imaginings.

Fin-de-siècle had hit the British people silly. A heightened time, a stident time, it had seemed a fitting climax to the British hegemony until in a single week, Black Week 1899, the Boer amateurs had defeated the British regular army three battles in a row. Reality had struck, and presently in a succession of tragedies and disillusionments the grand certainties of the Victorian age were to collapse once and for all. Half a century of dazzle ended in doubt. Tremendous concepts of duty and privilege, thrilling exploits of war and exploration, terrific figures of pomp and authority, unimagable territories, incalculable wealth, the Queen-Empress herself attended by killed Scots and turbaned Hindos—all this, the magic of the imperial idea, tragically lost its mystery.

For it had rested, on fond, on bluff, or at least upon display. That power was half-empty: that weath was not bottomless: those heroes were all too human: even Victoria herself was not divine at all, but could be lampooned by foreigners with impunity. For fifty years the British had declared themselves to the world at their own estimation, and by and large the world had believed them: it was Black Week and the Boer War that stripped the spectacle of Empire, and cracked its driving confidence.

Mafeking was a voice from the ampler past. Petty though it was in the scale of the war, peripheral to its importance, still it spoke in the heroic mode. A generation conditioned to the perpetual theatre of Empire found in the news from Mafeking a reassurance after all. B-P's vivid reports breathed some of the glorious eccentricity of Gordon at Khartoum, his hard-pressed garrison, hemmed in by Mousers and 75-pounders, showed just the same indomitable resolution as the heroes of Kerke's Drill, jabbed about by assassins. The presence in the town of women and children recalled the tear-jerkers of the Indian Mutiny, and the attendance of patri- cians (on Lord Edward, the Prime Minister's son, Charles Fitzclarence, of Munster, and the Hon Algernon Hombury-Tracy, was a reminder that British Imperialism, now as then, had class.

Just as in adult life a sug- gested of nursery fire or bed- time story, a forgotten taste of medicine, conjures from the past the comforts of childhood, so in the public mind, person- Mafeking fulfilled a yearning in a world that was top- heavy. B-P stood for the best of us. All around confusion, rage, in defeat and mockery, and fooling, but far away in that little town on the veldt familiar priorities pre- vailed. War was it only the first of the cherished vision. Politicians right glad and low- mellers snort, but there were people in every corner, no least among the Boers them- selves, who responded in the measure of Mafeking, in reluc- ant recognition perhaps that there had been much good and glory to the world that the British ruled.

But it was only wishing, only a last dream, perhaps the re- flected in at heart, which is why they created the relief of the town with such over- wrought intensity. The Empire never recovered from the Boer War, beside being the Queen actually died, and never again would Kaiserism turn out in redcoats against the Fuzzy Wuzzies, or little Lord Robert ride down to Mandalay. In Mafeking they saw an old pic- ture-postcard of Market Square during the siege. It is a little faded, but full of suggestion. There is Baden's little more at its blacking-rail, and there is the sandbagged solicitor's office beside it. And perched precariously on a high plat- form, barely visible against a muddily developed sky, one can just make out the little, antique figure of Baden-Pow- ell—impera, the self that never stops, as the Malabari allegorist posted to call him.

I got on the square one day with this poster in my hand and invited him "and one there before me on Mr Min- chin's roof. But though I expected to be entertained by the town, and thought I might portray him, for literary pur- poses, watching the approach- ing relief column 75 years ago today, in the event I found it a searing conception. Did he see more, I suddenly found myself wondering, as he whistled on there with his te- scope? Could he make out more terrible events, darkening beyond the veldt? Did the wolf-thats-nearsleeps delibe- rately foster the illusion of Mafeking, as an historical gauge, or a symbol?

I was answered by this un- expected conference, and his- tory's corona the preserved home with a funny message on the back, walked around the corner to Cecil's, where I treated myself in consolation to a rather less than Maficked lamb chop among the silent waiters.















## Gardening

## Bamboozle the wind

is a strange paradox that if you want calm peace and quiet in the garden, the best place to go is Ireland—the republic, that is. There is no traffic on the roads and even the minor road surface is good; the Irish drivers are a bit predictable—they tend to drive without warning, but they drive slowly and are not aggressive on the road. And the quietness! On a calm evening you can stand at the edge of Lough Corrib and only sound you can hear is that of a man rowing three miles away on the other side of the lake. Nowhere have my wife and I enjoyed so peaceful a relaxing holiday.

filtering the winds that blow right up the garden off the lake. Where the wind had a free run permanently you could see trees bent away from the prevailing wind and young growths "scorched", but in the shelter of quite a small belt of bamboos, not more than 10 feet thick, there was no damage. Young ornamental trees had survived a year or two without even a stake. The bamboos are not too plentiful these days and this is a pity. I think we have been too much carried away by swift growing conifers like *Cupressus parlati* as shelter plants. These are fine but they do rather assert themselves in the landscape, and they will grow perhaps disproportionately large. Or they may need annual trimming, keeping from growing too tall. Bamboos, however, never look out of place—they blend with any landscape, do not grow too tall and are no trouble.

There are many fine gardens in Ireland, those of Birt Castle, Mount Usher, Powerscourt, with Mount Stewart and Rowallan in the north to mention only a few. Information about properties in the care of The National Trust for Northern Ireland can be obtained from The National Trust, Malone House, Baner, Downpatrick, Co. Down, BT9 5PU, Northern Ireland. Information about gardens and historic houses in the Republic of Ireland, also about hotels and boarding houses, may be obtained from The Irish Tourist Board, 150-151 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 0AQ.

On a recent short visit we were particularly impressed by our reception at the Assolas Country House, Kanturk, Co. Cork, Ballylicky House Hotel, Bantry, Castlerosse Hotel, Killarney, and Knockferry Lodge, Knockferry, near Galway. The last is mainly frequented by fishermen, right on the edge of Lough Corrib. Near Galway too is Moran's Oyster Cottage at Kilcolgan, famous for 100 years, where they were dispensing oysters in April at 85p a dozen. There is much to be said for a gentle garden pilgrimage in Ireland, especially if one wishes to combine it with a fishing holiday.

Nearer home, the Chelsea Flower Show opens on Tuesday in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London. Tuesday is reserved for fellows of The Royal Horticultural Society only, and the show is open from 8.30 am to 3 pm. Anyone who wants to become a fellow of the society may do so at the entrance to the show on payment of the annual subscription—£4.50 for one person, £7 for two. Fellowship not only entitles you to admittance to the Chelsea Show on Tuesday, but also on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In addition you can visit the society's shows at Westminster, the gardens at Wisley, and receive the society's journal monthly.

Among many other new flowers to be seen at Chelsea if the weather is good will be the new yellow scented floribunda rose named "Gardeners' Sunday" by R. Harkness & Co. It is being sold this year in aid of the Gardeners' Sunday Organization which arranges garden openings on behalf of the two gardeners' charities. Full details and an illustration of this rose may be found in *Gardeners' Visit*, the booklet which lists the gardens open on behalf of the organization. It may be obtained, price 15p at bookstalls or price 23p including postage, from The Organizer, White Witches, Claygate Road, Dorking, Surrey.

As I mentioned some weeks ago, when we have been held up in our seed sowing by the weather there is an even greater danger than usual of young seedlings suffering from periods of dry weather. They have vestigial root systems for the first week or so after germination and a short dry spell may mean disaster. I am surprised how few people know of the Melnor water timer—a device which you fit into your hose line and which you can set to turn off your sprinkler after a predetermined amount of water has been applied.

Roy Hay

## Chess

## Defeating the Great Boyg of Belgrade

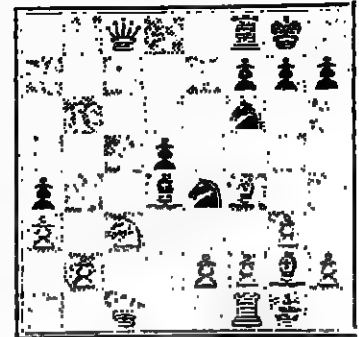
I can authenticate Mr Michael Goldman's story the other day in a letter to this paper about the item on the Yugoslav menu known as "hemendex". He found it at Titograd in 1961 but I came across it nine years earlier in an army officers' club at Belgrade.

We (the late C. H. O'D. Alexander and myself) were playing in a big international tournament and had been given the run of the club for the month of June. It was our custom to take our evening meal there. It was a very hot June, so hot that I was told you could fry an egg on the pavement (not that I put this to the proof); but it was only natural that I should turn away from "hemendex" and think longingly of some cold ham.

So, one evening after a tiring session in which I had drawn a game of 102 moves against the Belgian grandmaster O'Kelly de Galway and that after invoking the 50 move rule, I asked the waiter for "hem". He politely replied that there was no "hem" only "hemendex".

Now, having already spent some time in an incontinent hotel in Russia, I knew very well that any attempt to convince the waiter that if he had "hemendex" he must have been very drunk to failure. The argument would be regarded as a sign of Western frivolity and I ran the risk of being classed as "nie seriosus" (not serious). It was then that I remembered the advice given to Peter Gynn as to how to deal with the Great Boyg. "Go round about" it said and I did likewise. "Bring me," I said in my clearest Serbian, "some hemendex beer." "Bez" is a useful Slavonic word meaning "without" and, just in case any reader has not cottoned on to what this is all about, "hemendex" is ham and eggs. It worked, I got my ham and very good it was too.

Belgrade 1952 was a tough and interesting tournament. Of the 20 players participating nearly all were either grandmasters or masters and in coming in the middle of the table, Alexander with 9½ and myself with 9 points, we did not disgrace ourselves. In fact, I marvel at my powers of endurance then, since only a few weeks earlier, I had played in an even stronger event, the Maroczy Memorial Tournament at Budapest.



Position after Black's 19th move

## Saturday Bazaar

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## Drink

## Save the best until last

It is always a good idea to make the last wine of a meal impressive and, should you serve good but ordinary wines with the other courses, a wine with the sweet course can end the dinner on a high note. You can continue drinking it afterwards.

There are plenty of wines that can be served with fruit alone (excluding pineapple and citrus), and because for many years wines were regarded as somewhat inferior to dry wines, there are still many that will be novelties at reasonable prices. A single glass is usually an adequate helping and, because of their sugar content, all these wines will keep in a cool place for a day or even two.

The Loire, where much fine fruit is grown, makes many excellent wines of this kind. Yvonne de Mers, Villa, 111 definitely sweet ones, from Vouvray, the Coteaux du Layon, Chateau de Bonnezeaux. These wines possess the delicious vine freshness of a fine green-glass or Bartlett pear—they can be drunk at almost any time. The Coteaux du Layon, Tête de Cellier, of Edouard Robinson, is a bargain example, retailing at £1.25 (from John Kirby, 208-211, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berks.). In fact I have drunk this as an aperitif and when there was not to be any dry wine with the first course of the meal. It is a good between-times bottle if you can cool it quickly (15 minutes in a bucket of ice and water will do this, whereas it may take up to two hours in a refrigerator).

A fuller wine is the 1964 Bonnezeaux, Chateau de Gaillards, chateau-bottled (£3 from Dolamore, 16 Paddington Green, W2, 15 Craven Road, W2 and their Oxford and Cambridge branches). This might be a good choice if the dish the wine is to partner includes cream or custard in any form. Dolamore also list a Monbazillac, Chateau La Bre, 1970, bottled in the region (£1.94). The Monbazillac wines, once greatly

esteemed, merit a come-back for their close-textured sunny style. A glass of this wine is often the best conclusion to a meal that has been rich. Monbazillac is made with grapes that have been subjected to the action of *botrytis cinerea* or noble rot, but the wines are generally fresher than any Sauternes. The small-scale sweet Bordeaux, however, are worth trying if you find them always has a freshness, Sauternes du Mont and Loupale are all pleasant with fruit salad—though some of the wine should be included in the syrup in place of liqueur.

A curiosity, but one which I have known give great pleasure at the end of a meal that includes fine wines, is the Muscat de Beaumes de Venise, from the bottom of the Rhone Valley. It is a vin doux naturel, therefore, penalised on account of its strength being slightly higher than that of table wines, pink-tinged gold and deliciously redolent of the Muscat grape. The French-bottled Muscat de Beaumes de Venise of Vidal-Flauris is a fine one, and costs £30.60 a case from G. F. Grant, 37 Tooley St, SE1, who will answer inquiries about single bottles (costing about £2.55, but varying in accordance with postal and dispatch charges). Another unusual wine is a PX Montilla. Here the Pedro Ximenez grape makes the quality of the wine, but not so sweet that it would be unacceptable for drinking between courses, although it is excellent with dessert. (PX



Superior, £1.30 from Adams of Southwold, Suffolk.)

At a special meal, a glass of a great Sauternes is superb after great claret and with simple food—chocolate is fatal to fine wine. The Bersacs, with their curious dry finish, are always a delight, and the 1971 Chateau Couet, chateau-bottled, is beginning to be wonderful—it will get even better and is perfect with a fresh peach or apricot later in the season. A half bottle will be ample for six diners, so, although not cheap, such a wine is a wonderful climax to a dinner. (Corney & Barrow, 109 Old Broad St, EC, have Chateau Couet, 1971, for £4.50 or half bottles for £2.33.)

Pamela Vandyke Price

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## Honesty could keep Mr Ford in the White House

The essence of American politics is that it is feudal, in the sense that it is based on the conflicts of rival baronies, whereas politics in Britain is above all about party. In the United States the ambitious politician rises by attaching himself to one of these baronial empires and hoping to benefit from the spoils of war: in Britain he joins a large corporation and hopes to claw his way upwards to a seat on the board. This distinction immediately strikes a British observer and explains why the President still stands a good chance in next year's election despite the Republican's very firmly entrenched as the minority party. Surveys show that fewer than 20 per cent of the electorate consider themselves Republicans, while both the Democrats and those who are unattached have more than 40 per cent.

In British terms that would be the surest possible indication that a Democrat would be entering the White House in January 1977. In the United States it is not. The obvious way for the Democrats to consolidate their advantage would be for them now to rally behind the man who is to be their candidate, to project him for more than a year as the potential President. There is not the slightest chance of that happening. The party discipline is just not strong enough. The nomination will be contested as fiercely as the election itself. The struggle for the nomination would in any case have lasted well into next year. However with the new electoral rules, it may well be prolonged into the convention.

The new financial rules are designed to reduce the influence of special interest groups with deep pockets. No more than ten million dollars may be spent by any candidate in the primaries and no more than twenty million in the election itself. Up to half of these sums can be obtained from public funds by a candidate who has raised 5,000 dollars in each of 20 states in contributions of 250 dollars or less. Public finance is then available to match dollar for dollar all monies coming to a candidate from such small contributors. No single contribution is allowed to be more than 1,000 dollars.

These rules make it highly advantageous for a candidate to organize his finances early: otherwise he is unlikely to be able to satisfy the complex criteria for matching state funds. But once he has done so he will be equipped to contest a number of primaries. This makes it less likely that the early ones will be sudden death affairs.

There will also be far more primaries than in the past and in most states delegates to the convention will be allocated according to the proportion of votes won by the candidates, rather than on the old winner-take-all basis. This makes it much more likely that delegate strength will be fragmented between a number of candidates. It is always possible that one man topped the poll in the first few primaries he would build up a psychological momentum. But the man with the best financed campaign, and heading the opinion polls, is Governor George Wallace, and he would not be acceptable to the bulk of the party as their candidate. The better he does the more likely he is not to win the nomination but

to smoke out Edward Kennedy. The search would then be on for someone who could stop Wallace and the pressure on Kennedy to allow his name to go forward would be very powerful. The more one travels around the United States the more impressed one becomes by Kennedy's strength within the party. If he is even prepared to accept it, he can in all probability have it. Other than a great many experienced Democrats expected to flock to the convention to turn to one of the old warhorses, Humphrey or Muskie.

This kind of protracted conflict between Democrats would not be the best preparation for a combined assault upon a Republican President. Not even Senator Kennedy could be absolutely confident unless the economy is still in as bad a plight. The Presidential race more than any other is determined by the person rather than the party: memories of the Chappaquiddick remain and would be further revived in a savoury campaign, which partly explains why Mr Kennedy is resisting nomination. The polls confirm that Mr Ford is highly regarded for his honesty but not his competence. Some commentators consider this a fatal weakness. But that is by no means sure in post-Watergate America, so long as the economy has indeed revived. People tend to judge the honesty of a politician by his personality and his competence by results—which means in this case by the fruits of his economic management.

The President, too, has trouble from a baronial rival. There has been a marked resurgence of strength on the Republican right, with Mr Ronald Reagan, the former California Governor, as the favoured champion. Some of the President's supporters are not certain of his re-election. The best way to head Mr Reagan off would be for Mr Ford to make the running, so that his renomination would seem like a fait accompli. But that cannot be done so long as doubts persist that he will in fact run again. Stories that he will bow out are strenuously denied in the White House, but the President's aides have had difficulty in persuading him to postpone his decision for a few hours that would be necessary to take the only decisions that could still the gossip by setting up a campaign organization and publicizing details of the President's plans for the primaries. An announcement may come soon, but the delay suggests at the least a certain lack of political appetite.

The strategy in the President's camp will be to divert Mr Reagan's attention to the Vice-Presidency. That could be in the nature of an each-way bet. If the right-wing becomes so strong that it would be a surprise if Mr Reagan could replace Mr Rockefeller on the ticket. In any case, to hold out that hope might deter Mr Reagan from challenging the President directly.

The aura of somewhat inarticulate decency that surrounds Mr Ford may be more in keeping with America's mood than many suppose. But the tragedy is that there is nobody in prospect to uplift the spirits of a troubled people, to restore that faith in the political process that so many Americans have lost.

Geoffrey Smith

## An impressive first year, but the real test for President Giscard is still to come

Paris France is a fortunate country, an eminent foreign observer remarked the other day. She boasts a political system which makes for stability and provides for one man at the top to govern in the interests of the nation as a whole, and not of any particular category of citizens. He might also have added that fortune, so far, has smiled on her president.

A few months after his election, just one year ago on Monday, the formidable coalition of his opponents was weakened by their divisions: and the edge was taken off the fuel crisis by a particularly mild winter. One cannot, however, help but wonder, paraphrasing Shakespeare, whether his glorious winter will not be succeeded by a summer of discontent.

Yet President Giscard d'Estaing, after 365 days in office, which were not all plain sailing and have been punctuated by great upheavals in the world, is more firmly installed than when he took over on May 19 with a bare majority of just over 1 per cent. For the third time in succession the elective monarchy, as the Fifth Republic is often called, has worked well, and the transition from the "UDR state" to the new "Giscardian state" has taken place without upheaval.

France observes with fascinated approval — his steadily rising popularity in opinion polls confirms it — the novel style and the bold initiatives of her new ruler. The Gaullist Party has fallen into line thanks to the able strategy of its new leader, M. Chirac. The Government enjoys a stable and broader based parliamentary majority than ever before. The economy is on the mend, and makes a distinctly better showing than that of most other western countries.

Labour unrest is limited; and the fears — or hopes — of a repetition of May, 1968, seem increasingly improbable. Around France, in the deprecating words of M. Robert, has become "amiable", practising conciliation rather than confrontation, and attempting to reconcile, not always successfully, interdependence and independence.

The President is fond of quoting a remark made by Chairman Mao to the Romanian Prime Minister. The best political regime in the world by far, he is reported to have said, is one in which a liberal elite conducts the process of evolution in a country. Such an elite is skilled, disinterested, and does not carry change too far. The trouble, the Chinese leader added, is that such a regime does not exist. Could it be M. Giscard d'Estaing's ambition to prove Chairman Mao's conclusion wrong?

He was a traditionalist who liked change, he told his first press conference. "As France is a traditional country which does not change, it was rather natural I should be chosen."

Change has certainly been the keynote of the new regime, just as "continuity and liberalization" were those of President Pompidou's. And in many ways, President Giscard d'Estaing has lived up to his promise. The pace and variety of the innovations coming out of the Elysée Palace in the past year have been impressive, and somewhat bewildering to those who thought they had elected a conservative candidate right from the start with the discarding of the traditional presidential garb for his inauguration and his walking up the Champs Elysées. They were intended to strike the imagination, to mark the beginning of the new era.

There have been changes of style, like dining out with ordinary French families, and

the complete transition to a relaxed, pragmatic approach to the business of government, which critics have described as "gimmickry". There have been changes in customs, manners and habits, which dug deeper into the fabric of conservative France — a country far more conservative than Britain, the President has remarked — like the abolition of VE day, over which the dust has not yet settled.

They have brought about a distinct and much needed relaxation in the every-day tensions

of French society, and have made it more human, save in the political sphere, where the President's attempts to establish a working relationship with the opposition have foundered on the latter's refusal. And, on the whole, they have been popular.

But these are not enough to "change society" as M. Giscard d'Estaing promised. The real reforms — a depth-education, land ownership, taxation, capital gains, industrial relations, of which the extension of full unemployment pay to one year was a forerunner — are still to come. These are basic to

French life, and they will begin to strike directly at the vested interests of precisely those who voted for him in a majority.

One question on many Frenchmen's minds is whether the President is really determined to push them through. His sincerity as a reformer is not in doubt, even though his fellow countrymen still find it hard to define him precisely. They cannot quite make out whether he is an idealist, a liberal, or a conservative. His social background, his tastes, his class image seem in contradiction with his professed aims. He said before his election that France wished to be governed from the centre, in fact, as he himself readily admits, he has been governing her from the centre left, stealing many of the clothes of the opposition.

He is obsessed by the fact that he was elected by a majority of just over 1 per cent and by the fact that in all countries in the world, the left is on the ascendancy. His aim is to prevent it from gobbling up part of his electorate, and he therefore steers as close to it as possible.

But this raises the other and bigger question whether he can. The law on abortion, for instance, was only voted by Parliament with the support of the communists and socialists. Will 15 million property owners in this country allow their sacred rights to be tampered with by a new land law? It would take a lot to get the centrist government majority to rebel, and bring the government down. But it should not be pushed too far into its retranchments. And even the left might object to some of the root and branch changes he contemplates.

But the key issue is whether change coupled with a very empirical approach to a united Europe — adds up to a clear-cut political objective, let alone a

"grand design", like President Pompidou's aim to make France a great modern industrial nation in a strong independent united Europe. The moral just, not human, moral, fraternal society he has set out to create remains a vague concept. Even one can be for it, until its contents are defined. He defers it as a middle class society, the type Sweden achieves through socialism, but why France, by temperament, prefers to achieve by liberal methods, thus preventing acrimonious discontents from building up, and France lapsing in revolution, as she has so often in the past.

The real test of M. Giscard d'Estaing's statesmanship is not behind him but before — when the hard core of reform is broached, and in the autumn when half a million school leavers come onto the labour market and half or more to find jobs. There are those who say that precisely because of the vagueness of his long term objectives, and empirical method of government, M. Giscard d'Estaing, not the man for storms, has been steadily improving after a slump towards the end of last year; while there is a good deal of uncertainty to where he really wants to take a seasoned political observer has admired him with a certain glass, very beautiful but fragile. There are signs, the past six months, he acquired a new sense of poise, a more sober, calm approach to the problem of change. Only the future will tell. He has still to outline clearly and fully to his countrymen.

Charles Hargr



George Hutchinson

## Spotting the Tories who would fall in for a coalition

To adapt a prophecy of 1939 — one which is among the most notorious failures of political prediction, or insight, in modern times — there will be no coalition this year or next. But the adaptation carries more conviction, because the underlying reasoning is sounder than Lord Beaverbrook's original assertion about the likelihood (or rather the unlikelihood) of war — an assertion which distinguished the front page of the *Daily Express* every morning to within a month of the outbreak.

However desirable the compact or accommodation might seem, there can be no early coalition, if only because the Labour Party, as at present constituted, will not have one. Of course, there are other reasons as well, but that is the first — and probably insuperable — obstacle to what many moderate and well-intentioned people would like.

Mr Wilson will not entertain the notion, as he has just been reiterating. Other considerations aside, not least his own personal objections, he knows that the majority of his party would oppose it. So would many Liberals, though no doubt Mr Thorpe and other MPs would fall in if the opportunity arose.

Who among the Tories would do so?

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who is responsible for Treasury affairs in the Shadow Cabinet, has been appealing for "a broader coalition of understanding" on measures to check inflation. That is one thing, and is perhaps already in the making. A coalition government — or a government of national unity, in Mr Heath's phrase at the last election — is not, nor did Sir Geoffrey suggest that it was.

Would Mrs Thatcher wish or agree to serve in such an administration — against all probability — one could be formed? For a start, we cannot take it for granted that she would be asked, even though she is now the leader of the Conservative Party.

Conservatives invited to join a coalition led by a Labour Prime Minister would surely be Conservatives of the left or centre rather than the right — Mr Whitelaw, say, and other "liberals" like Mr Maugham, Mr Ian Gilmour, and Lord Carrington, not to mention Mr Heath.

That apart, Mrs Thatcher and her adjutant, Sir Keith Joseph, might prefer to stand aside in the belief that a coalition of the

so-called centre would fail, almost by definition. There are many on the right who would think that a correct instinct or assessment.

Understandably, Mrs Thatcher would rather hold office at the head of a Conservative government. A "centrist" coalition administration could have little appeal to her, however well-meaning its members. Nor, perhaps, could a centrist Conservative administration. For good or ill, Mrs Thatcher's inclinations are to the right.

Lord Home of The Hirsel — or Sir Alec — already has 11 chapters under his belt. In the short space since he retired from Mr Heath's Shadow Cabinet, he joined the House of Lords and began writing his memoirs. Like Lord Butler (*The Art of the Possible*) he is contenting himself with a single book rather than half a dozen volumes in the manner of Mr Harold Macmillan. Measured by the duration of the two premier-ships, the proportions seem to be right.

At first glance I thought that a half-page advertisement the other day must be the work of the Frere-Smith brigade or

others hostile to the EEC. Under the heading "Some of the people who want to keep Britain in Europe" we were given a catalogue of names.

What was this? A roll call of the Gullies Men, trumpeted by their opponents? While most of the names were well known, and many of them distinguished, not all were calculated to inspire universal confidence in the cause.

Careful inspection showed, however, that the advertisement had been inspired by the "Europeans" themselves, towards their greater glory. But they had managed to place some of their most eminent and respected supporters among strange companions.

One up to Frere-Smith and Co.

If Mr Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary, could tear himself away from his country house in Berkshire one Saturday, and motor down to the Channel coast, he would see how attractive some prices remain in this accepted isle to people living in France and Belgium. They come over to Folkestone or Dover for the day, just to go shopping. The streets are frequently crowded with continental housewives like one from Belgium

who was saying: "We have bought wallpaper at half the price, coffee, tea-bags, cakes and biscuits at what we consider bargain prices". In the evening you see them making their way back to the ferries weighed down with bulging carrier-bags and overflowing baskets. Ask Sir Marcus Siffert, he knows from his own shops. Lord Selkirk knows too.

As president of the Britain in Europe movement, Mr Jenkins has admitted — to a certain difficulty in overcoming the widespread conviction that continuing membership of the EEC would result in dearer food (not to mention other commodities). "There is", he said this week, "a wall which we have not yet succeeded in penetrating, of understandable but misplaced incomprehension." Whose fault is that? One might reasonably ask.

Two junior ministers, Mr Eric Deakin and Mr Alfred Morris, who are not notoriously prone to extravagance, have since flatly asserted that some foods would become cheaper if we withdrew from the Community, among them, lamb, butter, lamb and Cheddar cheese. A vote for Europe, they suggested, would be a vote for higher prices in the shops:

for example butter might 70p a pound by 1978. Mr Jenkins' "difficulties" require "emphatic" assurances from him with a crystal ball. Europeans had to dispose of them quickly if they are to feel sure of success by June 5.

"When I was a boy I was sidetracked not only safe, but also to create an image wished to add to possessions and felt a dignified honour in prospect but now we must apologise any success in business a moral law, so that today worse to seem to prosper to be an open criminal."

Those words were more than 2,000 years ago, attributed to one of Aristotle's pupils, a 330 B.C. born in Athens taught in the schools of Plato and Aristotle. A few other things, he was one of the earliest speech-writers, timid to speak in public and he was a brilliant orator, bold, or less so, in spirit. Twenty-one of them extent.

Plus ça change, plus c'est mémo chose. © Times Newspapers Ltd.

## Sportview

### A rising young star smashing her way to Wimbledon

Martina Navratilova is only 19 years old. But in the first four months of the year she won \$2,000 playing tennis in the United States. Uncle Sam taxed her 30 per cent. The Czechoslovak Government took 20 per cent. The rest went to compulsory contribution towards national sports development. That still left the bulky left-hander more than £23,000 in pocket.

Last Sunday, in Aix-en-Provence, Miss Navratilova crushed Evonne Goolagong in the final of the women's world team championship for the Federation Cup. With the help of Renate Tomasek, another muscular testimony to the Czechoslovak cuisine, she earned her country and eastern Europe as a whole their first world team title in either men's or women's tennis. Less than a year earlier these same Czechoslovaks had beaten Britain in the final of the under-21 competition for the Annie Heisbault Cup.

East European nations have to make a teasing choice between political gestures and winning prestige. Often they boycott or scratch from events in which South Africa take part. For this reason Czechoslovakia had missed four successive Federation Cup competitions. Presumably the advent of a potential winning team made them change their minds. If so, they must be pleased with the result of what could be construed as a contradiction of earlier policies.

Miss Navratilova's home is Revinice, about 15 miles outside Prague. Her sister, aged 12, also plays tennis. "The whole family are still playing tennis, even my grandmother. They were all good athletes. I started when I was five. My father is still my coach."

Did she have any early models? "We didn't get to see too many tennis players. Only

Wimbledon on television. I remember Billie Jean King, Nancy Gunter, Ann Jones. But as a tennis player I like Billie Jean most."

She used to take part in a variety of sports: hockey, athletics, even handball, soccer. "I just played against the boys. As a girl, I couldn't be in the team". She likes going to the movies, listening to classical music, reading books. A regular item of her equipment at tournaments is what looks like a handsome executive case. It is a baggyman's bag. It is a baggyman's bag. It is a baggyman's bag.

What with one thing and another it is hardly surprising that she finds the American tennis scene congenial. "It's more enjoyable to play tennis in the States. Everything is much easier. You play indoors. So you always play. It's not windy. More spectators, more prize money. But it's more fun to play in the French and Italian because there is not so much pressure on you. There are not so many good players. On the Virginia Slims circuit there are all the good players. Then they play WTT" (the American inter-city team league).

Her best matches before going to Aix, she reckons, were those in which she beat Christine Evert in Washington and Miss Goolagong in Boston. But she has beaten them all, except Mrs King. "I have never played Billie Jean. My dream is to play her at Wimbledon, because that will probably be my last chance to play her. She's the greatest player. Of the other women players, I admire her the most. Not only because of her tennis ability, but also as a person. She has done so much for women's tennis, for women's sport."

Miss Navratilova is 5ft 7in tall



Martina Navratilova: she dreams of a Wimbledon final.

and reluctantly concedes that her weight varies between 104 lb and 112 lb. Inevitably, she is not always as agile and supple as she might be, especially in picking up drop shots and short angles. One of her Federation Cup opponents was the experienced Geraldine Barrville of Ireland, a shrewd and objective critic. "She's terribly strong," said Mrs Barrville. "I don't think half the men at home hit the ball as hard as she does."

She must have wrists like iron. But she's very big and moves badly. She doesn't turn quickly." A further weakness of Miss Navratilova's game is that at present her volleying is somewhat insecure. But her opponents mostly have too many problems of their own to concentrate on a cool examination of Mrs Navratilova's supposed deficiencies. Her service and smash are explosive. She can rally soundly and has fierce

passing shots on both flanks. In the forecourt she is eager and bold and usually has a sure touch.

In short, she has the ability to play any kind of game on any kind of surface. But it is basic nature is always aggressive — by East European standards, uncommonly so. She no longer has a favourite surface. "But I don't know whether I like to play on grass, because I didn't get used to it."

Her favourite strokes? "Probably the running forehand down the line, or when I hit a really good top-spin passing shot. Because my weakness is my backhand I enjoy it more when I hit a good one. I also like to move all these fancy shots at the net — volley, drop shots."

In 1973 Miss Navratilova caused a stir by beating Mrs Gunter to reach the last eight of the French championships. Last year she reached the final of the Italian and West German championships, and again, the last eight in Paris. In sharing the French mixed doubles title with Ivan Lendl she became the youngest player ever to win a French championship. This year her further advance has been startling. She finds it difficult to explain.

"I know I improve. I was expecting to improve. But I don't know why it happens. I was doing some physical fitness exercises last November in Prague, so I got fitter. That might be one of the reasons. I wasn't tired in the final set. I could still play my best — I didn't have to fight myself. Also, because I play all the best players and got more experience I know how to play the big points, the pressure points. And I can control myself better. I don't get upset so much by bad line calls."

It seems only yesterday that we were assuming Miss Evert would rule the courts, especially the clay courts, for years to come. That assumption is no longer valid. But life is nothing unless it is a ceaseless quest for improvement. The ex-footballer from Revinice will really have to watch her diet — and perhaps take a few more doses of agility training. She does still be strong enough to carry all those dollar bills to the bank.

Rex Bellamy

## Top marks for getting the Chinese joke

Of all the barriers to understanding between China and Europe, humour is undoubtedly one of the highest, stoutest and oldest.

European jokes are as perplexing to the Chinese as Chinese laughter and its causes are to Europeans. Nothing is more infuriating than to find one's serious observations to be a source of mirth, or to encounter story faces in response to a treasured witicism.

Eastward-bound Europeans should remember two golden rules: the Chinese are embarrassed by guests who make self-deprecatory jokes; and their laughter often signifies discomfort, for instance when they are faced with requests they cannot meet.

To penetrate Chinese humour is another matter. Fairly high marks will go to anyone who laughs immediately at the following anecdote: "An old bear was picking fruit from a tree. He took some down with his right paw and put it under his left arm, then he took some down with his left paw and put it under his right arm. Then he..."

This joke signifies the psychological basis of much Chinese laughter: misadventure. The foreigner driving a car in Peking is astonished how often pedestrians or cyclists will grin broadly when narrowly avoiding a bad accident. This does not mean they think it funny: they are signalling relief, and a general faith in their own good luck.

The Chinese are equally baffled by many of the things that make Europeans laugh.

Least of all can they appreciate the British urge to laugh at oneself and belittle one's own achievements. This is to the Chinese what is to the incomprehensible of fustian embarrassment.

The foreigner, proud or wit, may be encouraged by curious tales of laughter which the Chinese greet more obscurely. But all it means is that he has something either too exciting or too absurd to be true in any other way.

This is not to suggest the Chinese should not be exposed to Euro humour — only that it should be confined to situations in which it will neither waste time create misunderstandings, can be carefully explained to the Chinese, and is not too far from the Chinese mind.

Humour figures high in Western man's list of admirable qualities, but relatively low on the Chinese list. It may be an indicator of unstable and even chaotic nature of the nations which have about ourselves. Chinese, from their own history, have had very few ideas about the things that are important in life, and they are mostly concerned with the survival of the social unit, the family and its descendants, or the realm and its unborn successors.

To paraphrase a poem attributed to an Englishman, the foreigner in China, amidst the things that are so important, should consider whether it does not appear to merely wind.

David Bond





55 Ashburnham Road, Ham,  
Richmond, Surrey.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal  
investment  
and finance,  
pages 16 and 17

### Building societies exceed forecast with a record net inflow of £406m

By Margaret Stone  
A good month for building societies, has beaten all predictions. Despite inflation and a negative interest rate, investors deposited nearly £1,000m with building societies last month. Gross receipts amounted to £912m compared with £688m in March, and at the net level receipts were an all-time record of £406m compared with the previous peak of £374m the month before.

Although societies are maintaining a very high liquidity level, in the order of 19 per cent, their increased lending capacity is reflected by advances in April of £281m (£340m in March) and even more so in new commitments £72m higher at £466m.

The huge inflow of funds is, in the words of Mr Leonard Boyle, outgoing chairman of the Building Societies Association, peaking at the annual meeting in Torquay earlier in the week, because investors "in these uncertain days give first priority to safety, security and availability".

Despite the overflowing offers—leading to criticism that the societies are not lending

enough at the moment—there are fears within the movement that its fortunes could turn down again in the near future. An immediate worry is the introduction of the Government's index-linked savings schemes in June and July. This coincides with the cut in the investment rate from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent, which takes effect from June 1. Longer term, the societies are also aware of the future trend of interest rates.

During April the societies paid off the bulk of the outstanding debt from the £300m made available to them by the Government between May and September of last year. There remains only £50m due to be repaid this month.

Although mortgage demand is running at such a high level, and despite recent advances, the societies are still having to operate on a quota system. Nor is there much evidence to suggest that house prices are starting to rise rapidly as a result of so much money being pumped into the system.

Demand in relation to the actual supply of houses is still judged as slack.

New head at the helm, page 16

### Hambros shares rally on report of Reksten deal

By Adrienne Gleeson  
After reports that agreement had been reached for the large-scale repayment of borrowings made to Mr Billar Reksten, the Norwegian shipowner, by banks in this country, the shares of Hambros yesterday closed 25p higher at 165p.

But a spokesman for the group, which has traditionally been heavily involved in the provision of finance for Scandinavian shipowners, and which has particular connections with Mr Reksten, yesterday denied any knowledge of such an agreement.

That Hambros has approached the Norwegian Government, as well as other parties likely to be affected by the present problems of the Scandinavian tanker owners, was confirmed by diplomatic sources.

The group is trying to reach agreement on common action to limit the extent of the potential financial damage in a situation in which bankers, shipowners and shipbuilders are all at risk.

The Norwegian Government is also involved because of the implications for employment in the large-scale tanker cancellations.

There has, however, been no official confirmation of reports in the Norwegian popular press that the Bank of Norway would step in to guarantee the loans made by British banks to Norwegian shipowners.

The reports suggested that in the case of Mr Reksten the Norwegian Government would take some of all of his shareholdings in prominent Norwegian companies as a quid pro quo: among the companies believed to be affected were Spitzbergen Coal and Norsk Hydro.

But City sources were inclined to doubt that the prospect of increasing its stake in these companies would be sufficient to induce the Norwegian Government to enter into so open-ended a commitment.

Hambros shares have been a weak and erratic market since the problems of the tanker owners—caused by reduced consumption of oil and big increases in tanker tonnage—began to emerge. The bank is well exposed in shipping finance and is believed to have followed traditionally cautious lending policies.

But the scale of the collapse in tanker values in this phase of the shipping cycle has been unprecedented.



Mr Scanlon: His appointment will cause concern to directors.

### Mr Scanlon appointed to NVT board

By Edward Townsend  
Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday announced the surprise appointment of Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Engineering Union, to the board of the Northern Victoria Tanker Trust (NVT).

It is the first time that a leading trade unionist has become a member of the board of a Government-backed company and is bound to cause concern among NVT directors.

Although it is usual for such appointments to be agreed informally before being publicly announced, the Department of Industry simply said yesterday that Mr Dennis Moore, the NVT chairman, "has been notified". Mr Benn and Mr Moore are known to have discussed it.

In a brief statement last night, NVT said that the proposed appointment would be on the agenda of a board meeting next Thursday.

The appointment has been made under the terms of the deal which set up NVT in July 1973, with £3.8 million of state aid granted by the Conservative Government. The new company brought together the motor cycle interests of the ailing BSA company and Manganese Bronze and the then Department of Trade and Industry was given the right to appoint a director.

Two months later the new company announced closure of the Triumph plant, Meriden, which sparked off the struggle by workers to set up a co-operative. The workers accused Mr Benn of blocking the co-operative which was receiving Mr Benn's personal support.

The NVT directors may now see the appointment of Mr Scanlon as a move by Mr Benn to ensure that workers' views are fully represented.

### Dunlop pay settlement paves way for recall of 16,500 at Leyland

By R. W. Shalespeare  
British Leyland, which has lost output of more than 20,000 vehicles worth well over £50m during the past three weeks because assembly lines producing eight different models have been halted, will start to recall 16,500 laid-off workers from Monday morning. The company hopes all assembly lines will be back in full production by mid-week.

The move has been made possible because 700 Dunlop clerical workers, whose pay dispute closed five component factories in Coventry, decided yesterday to accept new settlement terms.

Meanwhile, however, Chrysler car production in Britain came to a standstill last night because of the pay strike held at the central assembly plant at Stoke (Coventry).

The Dunlop strikers voted by an overwhelming majority at a mass meeting to accept a new pay structure thrust out by talks with union officials during the week.

The terms that they accepted will give men increases of between £7.35 to £8.51 backdated to March 1 with further increases giving all male workers a minimum rise of £2.00 from November 1.

Women clerical workers will get a £7 a week increase backdated to March 1, a further £1 from June 1 and more increases from November 1—two months ahead of the deadline for equal pay. By November the rises for women over the year will range from £9.51 to £12.72.

British Leyland has been hit by the worst hit by the Dunlop strike, as the Coventry factories produce suspension units, for many of its cars.

Last night a British Leyland spokesman said: "There will be a planned return of all our workers at present laid off, starting from Monday morning and we hope that by Wednesday the end of all the backlogs will be cleared."

At Chrysler more workers had to be laid off yesterday at the Linwood, Renfrewshire, assembly plant, where some 3,000 are now idle and all production is stopped. Output was already held at the Reton assembly plant and 4,000 workers laid off.

The trouble centres on the strike at Stoke. The men have demanded an immediate cash offer of at least £8 a week ahead of the main pay negotiations due at the end of next month, in which the demand will be for a £15 a week increase.

Chrysler management has offered to put new pay proposals on the table by May 25 if there is a return to work.

The shutdown has again caused speculation about the whole future of the Chrysler's British operations, which last year showed an £18m trading loss. The stoppage also put at risk the company's main contract in Britain, which is with Iran. It involves the manufacture of parts for 150,000 vehicles to be assembled in Iran, the balance of 10,000 completed Avenger cars (about half of them have been made already) and another 10,000 Avengers in "knockdown" form.

Claim accepted: British Leyland has accepted the proposal by an independent inquiry that the 250 Coventry engine tuners, who were on strike for a month in January over a claim for skilled status, should be in a special category of production workers.

There are to be talks at Cowley to see how the recommendations of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service inquiry can be implemented.

The recommendations opened the way to a two or three-tier wage structure for production workers in the Coventry factories. This is likely to be resisted by the Transport and General Workers' Union, which represents most of the 9,000 line workers.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which made the strike official, now accepts Leyland's adoption of the inquiry's main recommendation.

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### Switzerland reduces bank rate to 4.5 pc

Switzerland yesterday cut bank rate to 4.5 per cent from 5 per cent, it was announced in Zurich.

The National Bank said that in view of the Swiss franc exchange rate it considered an increase in the interest rate differential compared with abroad as opportune. The rate cut should also make it easier for the banks to lower their interest rates for credits to the domestic and export industry.

Further improvement by equities  
The last day of the equity market trading account brought a further rise in share prices, mostly on bear closing. Turnover remained thin. Gilt edged improved with the help of an unchanged minimum lending rate.

The FT index gained 6.1 to 341.8. The rise of the past two sessions, in response to the recovery in sterling, represents most of the gain in the equity market over the week. The fortnight-long account has seen equities rise by 3.5 per cent.

Investor's week, page 17

15 price rises refused

Fifteen price rise applications were rejected by the Price Commission during April, bringing the total number since Phase Four began to 33. In addition, 365 price rises have been rejected by the commission since Phase Four started. 133 of them in April. During the month 11 companies made price reductions worth £1.7m in order to bring their profits back within allowable margins, while 33 companies withdrew price applications, bringing the total since Phase Four began to 115.

Dearer aluminium  
British Aluminium Co is increasing prices of primary aluminium ingot and related products by an average of 3.92 per cent. There is also to be an average rise in the cost of semi-fabricated products of 10.46 per cent. The higher prices apply to new orders and to all deliveries from June 2.

Vauxhall boost  
Vauxhall's new Chevette—introduced on May 2—has already boosted the company's sales. The new car registrations, Vauxhall had taken a lowly average of 6.3 per cent share of the market in the first four months of the year. This month it is running at more than 9 per cent.

Newsprint to be short  
There was likely to be a newsprint shortage in two years' time because of lack of current investment by manufacturers in new plant and machinery, Mr C. F. Popham, vice-chairman of Bowater Corporation, said after yesterday's annual meeting.

TWA \$6m April loss  
Trans World Airlines reported a loss in April of \$13.8m (about £6m), which was up sharply from a loss a year earlier of \$3.6m. It was announced in New York. TWA's April revenues totalled \$130.6m compared with \$140.27m a year earlier.

### BP abandons drilling on two N Sea wells

By Peter Hill  
British Petroleum has abandoned two wildcat exploration wells in the North Sea drilled at a total cost of £4.3m. The company announced last night that it had plugged the two wells on blocks 15/20 and 15/21.

The rig Sudeo 6 drilled a "hole on block 15/20 after a first well drilled on the block in March yielded only non-commercial shows of oil. The rig is now to drill an appraisal well on the Magnus 3d on block 21/12.

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### BP abandons drilling on two N Sea wells

Canada Sea Quest has snuffed a third well on block 16/28 on a separate structure from the Andrew field and the structure tested by the Hurdell.

Another rig, the Seeco 703 is preparing to drill the first well on block 210/13.

Ironically, yesterday's disappointing announcement coincided with remarks by Mr Bruce Milson, Minister of State for the Scottish Office, who claimed that one in three of the oil exploration wells being drilled east of Shetland was proving successful. This, he said, was quite extraordinary success rate.

Stressing this North Sea "boom", the Minister said that this success rate compared with a one in 20 success rate on world drilling. He pointed out that there had been nine oil discoveries since the beginning of this year and seven of these had been in the East Shetland basin.

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### New moves by Burmah action group

By Our Financial Staff  
Burmah Shareholders' Action Group is planning to hold a meeting one hour before the annual meeting of Burmah Oil in Glasgow on June 6 to urge the rejection of the company's 1974 accounts.

The group is seeking rejection on the grounds that the passing of the Resolution to receive and adopt the accounts would be tantamount to acquiescence in the disposal of the company's holding in British Petroleum.

Since it was formed at the beginning of last month, the action group has been pressing for renegotiation of the terms under which Burmah's holding in BP was sold by the Bank of England.

Institutional shareholders in the company have also formed a committee to urge the same point, but earlier this month disclosed that they had failed to secure any concessions from Mr Jasper Holman, deputy Governor of the Bank of England, or from Mr Edmund Dell, the Paymaster General.

The Shareholders' Action Group says it is undismayed, and intends to pursue its own course with increasing vigour. It says it has already received over 400 letters of support and is seeking proxies to secure the passing of the accounts as well as new donations towards its fighting fund.

### Costliest Ferranti solution chosen, Mr Heseltine says

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Tory spokesman on industry, said yesterday that the Government had chosen the most expensive solution to Ferranti's financial problems.

Mr Heseltine, in Manchester to study the North-West's problems, said the Government had made it clear that its main purpose was to not a large shareholders' problem.

The real problem centres on the transformer company of Ferranti, and the Government has given an undertaking to remove that financial burden during the next year or three.

"If they had done that now and proceeded with a rationalisation of the transformer industry in this country, which is a real industrial need, then there would have been no need for the taxpayer to contribute £15m."

Asked whether a Tory Government would dismantle the Ferranti arrangement, Mr Heseltine said that in the long term it must be the Conservatives' objective to restore to the shareholders the maximum possible number of companies.

"We are frightened, as everyone should be, of the increasing power that is being centralised in the state," he said.

"We cannot allow the National Enterprise Board to continue as envisaged in the industry Bill."

### Britain may get EEC loan

Brussels, May 16.—Britain has told the European Economic Community that it may take up its option to borrow funds from the Community's new \$3,000m per annum loan after the June referendum.

All nine member states were asked by the Commission whether they might be interested in making use of the loan, which is specifically designed to help those countries which need funds to finance balance of payments deficits in the wake of the oil crisis.

Besides Britain, Denmark and Italy have replied in the affirmative. The fund has a ceiling of \$3,000m, a figure which covers both principal and interest. This effectively means that the maximum capital available would be a little over \$2,000m.

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RETAIL PRICES			
The following are the index numbers (January 1974 = 100) for retail prices not seasonally adjusted, released by the Department of Employment yesterday:			
	1974	1973	% chg
March 1974	102.6	102.5	16.8
April 1974	102.3	102.5	23.3
May 1974	102.7	102.7	21.7
June 1974	102.7	102.8	22.2
July 1974	102.7	110.0	21.0
Aug 1974	102.8	110.2	17.0
Sept 1974	111.0	111.5	17.7
Oct 1974	113.2	115.7	14.4
Nov 1974	115.2	115.9	15.1
Dec 1974	116.9	117.4	16.9
1975			
Jan 1975	119.9	123.5	20.0
Feb 1975	124.3	123.5	23.3
Mar 1975	124.3	124.3	25.4
Apr 1975	129.1	129.4	28.5

GDP			
Gross domestic product at constant factor cost (1970=100) and seasonally adjusted:			
	1974	1973	% chg
March 1974	104.3	103.7	104.5
April 1974	103.8	103.2	109.8
May 1974	110.5	103.1	108.3
June 1974	102.6	103.3	101.3
July 1974	104.1	104.1	104.5
Aug 1974	104.3	104.1	105.2
Sept 1974	105.3	105.3	105.0
Oct 1974	111.6	109.9	110.0
Nov 1974	108.7	109.2	109.0
Dec 1974	109.8	108.8	110.3
Jan 1975	109.1	109.8	109.5
Feb 1975	110.3	109.7	109.8
Mar 1975	112.7	111.5	111.6
Apr 1975	111.8	111.2	110.6
1975 Q1			108.0

How the markets moved			
FT index: 341.8 +6.1 The Times index: 138.75 +2.52			
Rises			
Barclays 2k	2p to 2.25p	Heston	11p to 8.2p
Brit & Comm	12p to 12.25p	Imp Chem Ind	2p to 2.25p
Cent	12p to 12.25p	P & O Ind	2p to 11.5p
Courtaulds	4p to 11.5p	Shell	2p to 2.25p
Crutem, R	7p to 19.5p	Sun Alliance	2p to 12.5p
GKN	11p to 22.2p	Unilever	4p to 2.25p
Hambros	25p to 165p	Woolworth	4p to 4.2p
Falls			
Asa Port Comm	11p to 15.5p	Polly Peck	1p to 7p
Brit Am Tob	2p to 3.25p	Philips Lamp	2p to 2.25p
BT	5p to 4.75p	Peco Ind	2p to 2.25p
British Ind	2p to 2.25p	Servis	1p to 8p
Countrywide	2p to 1.5p	Sealed Air	2p to 2.25p
Hayward Ind	4p to 2.2p	Union Carb	10p to 2.2p
Lane Fox	4p to 2.2p	Western Area	2p to 6.5p
Equities ended the account			
Higher: edged securities moved higher.			
Sterling edged at 2.3025, 11p to 12p. The effective devaluation rate was 24.9 per cent.			
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		Unit Trust:	
		Schlesinger Nil Yield Fund	17

THE POUND			
	Bank buys	Bank sells	
Australia \$	2.27	7.22	
Austria Sch	29.25	27.25	
Belgium Fr	44.75	82.00	
Canada \$	2.24	2.27	
Denmark Kr	12.25	12.43	
Finland Mk	8.35	8.10	
France Fr	8.35	9.25	
Germany DM	8	3.23	
Greece Dr	59.80	46.73	
Hongkong \$	11.60	11.25	
Italy Lr	143.50	141.00	
Japan Yn	701.00	676.00	
Netherlands Gld	5.70	5.20	
Norway Kr	11.60	11.25	
Portugal Esc	36.50	34.50	
S. Africa Rd	3.58	37.00	
Spain Ptas	121.00	126.00	
Sweden Kr	9.20	9.00	
US \$	2.29	5.70	
Switzerland Fr	2.25	5.70	
Yugoslavia Dnr	30.00	27.00	

Notes for bank purcs. cont. as amended  
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## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Steel Brothers looking for UK engineering interests

votes are thought to be held by the family and friends — to change their minds remains to be seen.

Ahead of the board's recommendation, acceptances at the last moment appears the best course. Cussons' record over the years has proved disappointing, despite its strong brand names, since pre-tax profits in the mid-sixties were running at well over £800,000.

The forecast for the year to March, EPSL, is for profits not less than £1.20m against £1.19m the preceding year.

just how fast the rate accelerated, apparently after it passed a certain psychological point. And for anyone to argue that the big missing ingredient in the United Kingdom that was present in Germany is postwar reparations Gibbs adds: "I can't be argued that we are now paying 'reparations' to the oil producers".

More aptly perhaps is the comment: "The main lesson of the German hyperinflation was that one should prefer industrial to banks and other financials." Germans, however, did not have so well-developed a stock market as does Britain with such a wide choice of foreign and overseas oriented stocks.

High though the rate of inflation is at present, is, of course, still a serious question whether it is certain to accelerate beyond the point of no return. An even if it does, the investor is still left with one major alternative.

Assuming that cash and government debt will prove disastrous forms of saving—unless indexing is introduced at an early stage—what kind of investment must be made to retain title to once the nightmare of hyperinflation is brought to an end—canned food, a house or share certificates?

profit of \$363,467, which Mr. Goss hopes to increase by at least £200,000 this year, against a loss of \$368,400 in 1972. However, the figures are distorted by extraordinary items which gave a credit last year of £2,652 against a loss of £237,900 the previous year.

Around 80 per cent of Steel's profits come from outside the sterling area and the company is looking round for engineering interests it might acquire in the United Kingdom to provide a boost for its existing operations.

A final gross dividend of 6.67p a share (5.92p) is being recommended, making a total of 11.39p (10.13p).

Two major shareholders of Robert Stigwood Group, which is in the music and entertainment business, indicated yesterday that they may have come to the bid approach from Warner Communications of the United States. The shareholders are Mr. R. C. Stigwood, the group's chairman, and Mr. Shaun Gregor, who together own about 25 per cent of the group's issued equity.

Arrangements are being made to meet next month with representatives of Stigwood and of Polygram, which is jointly owned by Philips NV and Siemens of Germany.

Stigwood said he would disclose earlier that it was prepared in principle to make an offer to the holders of \$1 a share.

### Allied Leather peak

A second-half rally has taken the Allied Leather Industries group up from a pre-tax profit of £700,000 to £752,000 last year. But in 1972 profits reached a peak of £773,500. Turnover is up from £8.01m to £10.06m. The extraordinary items of £214,000, against £439,000 attributable profits went down from £771,000 to £558,000, though the dividend goes up from 4.33p to 4.84p. Earnings a share are 16.98p compared with 16.33p.

**Viners payout higher**  
Viners, the Sheffield-based international group which makes stainless steel and silver-plated cutlery, made a record profit of £746,000 last year—but the increase was only 2.8 per cent. Shareholders receive a dividend of 1.6p, against 1.42p out of earnings a share of 7.44p (6.86p). Turnover, £7.12m (£6.18m).

### Hanger loss in 1974

## Wright Bindley turn down Pentos

Engineering group Wright Bindley & Gell tells shareholders to reject the 50p a share cash offer from Mr Terry Maher's Pentos, which already has over 23 per cent of the equity. The offer values WBG at £1m.

The company, advised by Brands, points out that it is forecasting matching pre-tax profits of £350,000 for this year.

A further point in the defence is that net assets after a property revaluation are more than 100p a share. But loan stock holders are told that the

## Late rally and scrip issue by Stonehill Hldgs

Shareholders in Stone Holdings, the furniture group, are to receive both a dividend of 12.26p gross, against 11p, and a one-for-two scrip issue. This will give the group a 100p share value. **Trustee Status.** At present, the group is a "close company" with less than 2m of the 2.8m shares in issue. In the hands of directors and their families.

Profits pre-tax to the month to last September were depressed, but higher selling prices helped a second-half recovery from £357,000 to £396,000. This year, the company gives a profit of £777,000, up from £577,000 in the year to March 31, and a record of £883,000 in 1977. It was achieved on turnover from £5.22m to £7.06m.

attributable profits went down from £771,000 to £558,000, though the dividend goes up from 4.32p to 4.84p. Earnings a share are 16.98p compared with 16.33p.

A slowdown in growth in the second half of the current year is expected by Barlow Rand, the South African mining and industrial group. In the first six months to end-March, pre-tax profits rose by 22.5 per cent to R50m, while earnings improved from 23.6c to 29.5c a share. The dividend stays at 7c a share.

profit contributors is not given. much of the running has been made by the mining interests, particularly Transvaal Consolidated Land. But now the group faces a continued downturn in demand and activity in housebuilding materials, household appliances and packaging.

1

which the state links to the payment of service completed, with dire results for the women most in need—as the army most requiring supplementation. Most will wish to raise the level of pension. The balance between these different objectives will vary widely.

Of course, it is now going to be a lot more difficult and a lot more expensive to make sure that the employees of small firms get the sort of scheme which best fits their circumstances. It will also cost more to run these schemes because of the need to treat them separately, in the case of the pensioner who pays the cost.

I wonder who will be prepared to spend the time, trouble and money in these busy days to see that this section of the community is not left out in the cold?

Eric Brunel



**Schlesingers**  
announce the  
**Nil Yield Fund**  
designed specifically for Higher Rate taxpayers

[illegible][illegible]

**\*Trustees, particularly of Children's Settlements**  
**\*Other investors requiring a Portfolio return principally or wholly in the form of *Capital* gain, rather than income**

## Total net Returns

Many investors are now looking increasingly at **total NET returns** from investments rather than at gross dividend returns which can suffer very high rates of taxation.

The table below shows how unattractive such income can be compared with gains made in an Authorised Unit Trust, where a very modest relative capital gain offers the same net return as a very high gross income at the upper end of the tax range. In fact, for the 70% tax payer capital gains in an Authorised Unit Trust are worth at least 2.9 times as much as the same income return.

This table shows the **Gross Income Yield Equivalent**, at varying income-tax rates, to the untaxed gross capital gains shown:

**1. U.K. Equities**  
Including those offering 'SCRIP DIVIDEND OPTIONS' (so long as there is an advance in this option for the Trust) and CAPITAL SHARES of dual capital Investment Trust Companies.  
*Initial proportion of Fund 30% approx.*

**2. Fixed Interest**  
This sector includes LOCAL AUTHORITY NEGOTIABLE BONDS which may be bought and sold in the market without necessarily taking an interest return. "DEEP DISCOUNT" GILTS will also be purchased where the redemption yield is substantially represented by capital gain.  
*Initial proportion of Fund 30% approx.*

**2. Overseas Growth Stocks**

## Special Features

**Withdrawal Facility**  
The Fund offers a withdrawal facility whereby investors can realise a regular percentage of their capital investment in lieu of income. The Managers recommend that where possible such withdrawals start after one year or when good capital growth has been achieved. The Managers would not normally advise a withdrawal of more than 3%, p.a. but even 2% can be equivalent to a very high income return (see table above).

**"Back-to-Back" Facilities**  
By taking advantage of back-to-back foreign currency facilities, the Managers are able substantially to avoid the risks of the dollar premium, thus ensuring that the majority of the overseas sector of the Fund is *productively* invested.

**Schwabinger's Share Exchange Scheme is**

Capital Growth of	TAX RATE*			
	50% <sub>11</sub>	70% <sub>11</sub>	90% <sub>11</sub>	98% <sub>11</sub>
2% equals:	3.5% <sub>11</sub>	5.8% <sub>11</sub>	17.5% <sub>11</sub>	87.5% <sub>11</sub>
4% equals:	7.0% <sub>11</sub>	11.7% <sub>11</sub>	35.0% <sub>11</sub>	175.0% <sub>11</sub>
6% equals:	10.5% <sub>11</sub>	17.5% <sub>11</sub>	52.5% <sub>11</sub>	262.5% <sub>11</sub>

A further 10% of the Fund, approximately, will be invested in cash takeover bid situations and other suitable investments as they arise.

The portfolio will be broadly diversified and, in the opinion of the Managers of the

**Capital Gains Tax Position\***  
Capital gains realised within the Fund are subject to Capital Gains Tax at the rate applicable to Authorised Unit Trusts (16½% for 1974-75). Where an individual sells his units at a profit the capital gains tax payable is currently 40%. This reduced by a tax credit of

Until recently investors in this situation have been able to benefit from

**SAVINGS 3<sup>rd</sup> 1965-75**  
**SCRIP DIVIDENDS**

The Nil Yield Fund has been developed to

*The Managers will alter the structure of the portfolio as appropriate to achieve the objective of the Fund. The Managers wish to emphasize that owing to the volatility inherent in equities, an investment in this Fund should be made for the long term.*

**Please return the coupon below for a detailed brochure describing the Trident Nil Yield Fund. Should you wish to discuss**

help such investors.

## **Aims and structure of the Nil Yield Fund**

This Fund has therefore been designed to achieve a portfolio return principally or wholly by way of capital gain. There are specialised techniques to achieve such a return but most are impractical for the private investor since they need constant monitoring and a high degree of technical expertise besides considerable administration.

By concentrating full time professional management on one portfolio and using to full advantage the tax and administrative efficiencies inherent in Authorised Unit Trusts Schlesinger Trust Managers have resolved this difficulty.

The Fund will be structured around the following broad guidelines;

*Mind should not be made for the short term.*  
Minimum investment—£2,500.

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.











## Miralla wins Irish 1,000 Guineas as favourite finishes fourth

[illegible]

**IS. 17.11.** **IRISH-OLD GUINNESS**  
 1st: 1.1.1. Irish: odds: 219/20; 1st: 1  
**Minkay** (R. P. Mac Kevoy), 0-0  
**Sheriff** (R. P. Mac Kevoy), 0-0  
**Slyke** (Mr R. B. Muller), 0-0  
**High Trust** (J. B. Crank), 0-0  
**ALSO RAN:** 6-4 **Bleed Neck**, 0-0  
 1st: 1.1.1. **Black Viper**, 1-1. Resp: 8  
 1st: 1.1.1. **Black Viper**, 1-1. Resp: 8  
 1st: 1.1.1. **Black Viper**, 1-1. Resp: 8  
 1st: 1.1.1. **Black Viper**, 1-1. Resp: 8  
**TOTE:** W/R £2.50; places, 70c;  
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### Green Dancer: another important objective within reach

**PRX LIPUN (Group I: 3-3-0: £48,000: 1m 21m: Longchamp tomorrow)**

1208-11	Trepas (R. Schaefer), P. Baudin	9-2	P. Saez
0224-04	Monsieur Séguez (R. Grébo), H. Guez	9-4	A. Pagnon
1208-11	Prunelle (M. Le Bihan), J. M. de Chouveney	9-3	G. Rivet
033-112	Maricote (M. Le Bihan), J. M. de Chouveney	9-3	G. Rivet
111-1	Maricote (Baron G. de Hethschke), J. M. de Chouveney	9-3	G. Rivet
04-3	Matahwaik (Mrs E. Stern), H. van de Pooze	9-2	R. Jahn
22-3	Matahwaik (Mrs E. Stern), H. van de Pooze	9-2	R. Jahn
121-1	Group Dancer (J. Verheijer), A. Jérod	9-3	J. J. Jans
220-017	Val du Mar (D. Wüstenhagen), A. Penas	9-3	J. J. Jans
121-1	Val du Mar (D. Wüstenhagen), A. Penas	9-3	J. J. Jans
Val du Mar	Flor. 12-0, Prunier, 14-1 Trepas, 7-1 Matahwaik, 35-1 Monde Soffre		

GOAT wrestles cattle good-naturedly with a little good deal of dealing with a lot good enough to finish sixth in the French 2,000 Guineas three years ago. He was owned by the Duke of Devon who had won his last two previous races finished a little under the length of the race. He was a mixture of Grey and Bay, with a black tail, Green Bay, Green Dancer. Last year, Bolden beat the French colt, El Kastro, when he won the race. He was owned by the Duke of Longchamp six weeks later. Taken overall, they were much the same sort of horse, and he was a half brother to a horse and a half in front of General Vole, when they clashed at St Cloud in November.

[illegible][illegible]

6.30 CROISSETTE is specially recommended. 6.55 Flakelbridge. 7.3 Alarm Call. 7.50 Rolus. 8.20 Doonside. 8.50 La Carrageen.  
By Our Newmarket Correspondent  
6.30 Lady Ice. 8.30 Tudor Lord.

6-01: 2. Matthews (100-50); 3. J. Sweeney (1-0); 3. Lepore 13-27, 9 runs. Duke Army did not run.  
6-20: 1. Chandler (100-50); 2. Pender 13-27, 9 runs. Duke Army did not run.  
7-01: 1. Ruple Pass (1-1); 2. Spring





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**YACHTS AND BOATS**

**BERTRAM 31**

Sports Fisherman, 16m & 17m. Mercury, 21.500-watt outboard, 40-hp. 1988. 1989. 1990. 1991. 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. 2000. 2001. 2002. 2003. 2004. 2005. 2006. 2007. 2008. 2009. 2010. 2011. 2012. 2013. 2014. 2015. 2016. 2017. 2018. 2019. 2020. 2021. 2022. 2023. 2024. 2025. 2026. 2027. 2028. 2029. 2030. 2031. 2032. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040. 2041. 2042. 2043. 2044. 2045. 2046. 2047. 2048. 2049. 2050. 2051. 2052. 2053. 2054. 2055. 2056. 2057. 2058. 2059. 2060. 2061. 2062. 2063. 2064. 2065. 2066. 2067. 2068. 2069. 2070. 2071. 2072. 2073. 2074. 2075. 2076. 2077. 2078. 2079. 2080. 2081. 2082. 2083. 2084. 2085. 2086. 2087. 2088. 2089. 2090. 2091. 2092. 2093. 2094. 2095. 2096. 2097. 2098. 2099. 2100. 2101. 2102. 2103. 2104. 2105. 2106. 2107. 2108. 2109. 2110. 2111. 2112. 2113. 2114. 2115. 2116. 2117. 2118. 2119. 2120. 2121. 2122. 2123. 2124. 2125. 2126. 2127. 2128. 2129. 2130. 2131. 2132. 2133. 2134. 2135. 2136. 2137. 2138. 2139. 2140. 2141. 2142. 2143. 2144. 2145. 2146. 2147. 2148. 2149. 2150. 2151. 2152. 2153. 2154. 2155. 2156. 2157. 2158. 2159. 2160. 2161. 2162. 2163. 2164. 2165. 2166. 2167. 2168. 2169. 2170. 2171. 2172. 2173. 2174. 2175. 2176. 2177. 2178. 2179. 2180. 2181. 2182. 2183. 2184. 2185. 2186. 2187. 2188. 2189. 2190. 2191. 2192. 2193. 2194. 2195. 2196. 2197. 2198. 2199. 2200. 2201. 2202. 2203. 2204. 2205. 2206. 2207. 2208. 2209. 2210. 2211. 2212. 2213. 2214. 2215. 2216. 2217. 2218. 2219. 2220. 2221. 2222. 2223. 2224. 2225. 2226. 2227. 2228. 2229. 2230. 2231. 2232. 2233. 2234. 2235. 2236. 2237. 2238. 2239. 2240. 2241. 2242. 2243. 2244. 2245. 2246. 2247. 2248. 2249. 2250. 2251. 2252. 2253. 2254. 2255. 2256. 2257. 2258. 2259. 2260. 2261. 2262. 2263. 2264. 2265. 2266. 2267. 2268. 2269. 2270. 2271. 2272. 2273. 2274. 2275. 2276. 2277. 2278. 2279. 2280. 2281. 2282. 2283. 2284. 2285. 2286. 2287. 2288. 2289. 2290. 2291. 2292. 2293. 2294. 2295. 2296. 2297. 2298. 2299. 2300. 2301. 2302. 2303. 2304. 2305. 2306. 2307. 2308. 2309. 2310. 2311. 2312. 2313. 2314. 2315. 2316. 2317. 2318. 2319. 2320. 2321. 2322. 2323. 2324. 2325. 2326. 2327. 2328. 2329. 2330. 2331. 2332. 2333. 2334. 2335. 2336. 2337. 2338. 2339. 2340. 2341. 2342. 2343. 2344. 2345. 2346. 2347. 2348. 2349. 2350. 2351. 2352. 2353. 2354. 2355. 2356. 2357. 2358. 2359. 2360. 2361. 2362. 2363. 2364. 2365. 2366. 2367. 2368. 2369. 2370. 2371. 2372. 2373. 2374. 2375. 2376. 2377. 2378. 2379. 2380. 2381. 2382. 2383. 2384. 2385. 2386. 2387. 2388. 2389. 2390. 2391. 2392. 2393. 2394. 2395. 2396. 2397. 2398. 2399. 2400. 2401. 2402. 2403. 2404. 2405. 2406. 2407. 2408. 2409. 2410. 2411. 2412. 2413. 2414. 2415. 2416. 2417. 2418. 2419. 2420. 2421. 2422. 2423. 2424. 2425. 2426. 2427. 2428. 2429. 2430. 2431. 2432. 2433. 2434. 2435. 2436. 2437. 2438. 2439. 2440. 2441. 2442. 2443. 2444. 2445. 2446. 2447. 2448. 2449. 2450. 2451. 2452. 2453. 2454. 2455. 2456. 2457. 2458. 2459. 2460. 2461. 2462. 2463. 2464. 2465. 2466. 2467. 2468. 2469. 2470. 2471. 2472. 2473. 2474. 2475. 2476. 2477. 2478. 2479. 2480. 2481. 2482. 2483. 2484. 2485. 2486. 2487. 2488. 2489. 2490. 2491. 2492. 2493. 2494. 2495. 2496. 2497. 2498. 2499. 2500. 2501. 2502. 2503. 2504. 2505. 2506. 2507. 2508. 2509. 2510. 2511. 2512. 2513. 2514. 2515. 2516. 2517. 2518. 2519. 2520. 2521. 2522. 2523. 2524. 2525. 2526. 2527. 2528. 2529. 2530. 2531. 2532. 2533. 2534. 2535. 2536. 2537. 2538. 2539. 2540. 2541. 2542. 2543. 2544. 2545. 2546. 2547. 2548. 2549. 2550. 2551. 2552. 2553. 2554. 2555. 2556. 2557. 2558. 2559. 2560. 2561. 2562. 2563. 2564. 2565. 2566. 2567. 2568. 2569. 2570. 2571. 2572. 2573. 2574. 2575. 2576. 2577. 2578. 2579. 2580. 2581. 2582. 2583. 2584. 2585. 2586. 2587. 2588. 2589. 2590. 2591. 2592. 2593. 2594. 2595. 2596. 2597. 2598. 2599. 2600. 2601. 2602. 2603. 2604. 2605. 2606. 2607. 2608. 2609. 2610. 2611. 2612. 2613. 2614. 2615. 2616. 2617. 2618. 2619. 2620. 2621. 2622. 2623. 2624. 2625. 2626. 2627. 2628. 2629. 2630. 2631. 2632. 2633. 2634. 2635. 2636. 2637. 2638. 2639. 2640. 2641. 2642. 2643. 2644. 2645. 2646. 2647. 2648. 2649. 2650. 2651. 2652. 2653. 2654. 2655. 2656. 2657. 2658.

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